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Swansea v **Cherries report**

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Jinx hits Spitfires



Last season's nemesis strikes again - page 5

'FLAT' SAINTS FAIL TO STRIKE POTTER GO

Visitors put end to run

SAINTS' unbeaten run came to a disappointing end as they were beaten 1-0 by Stoke at St Mary's.

Ronald Koeman's men were looking to make it nine matches unbeaten in all competitions.

But they returned from the international break looking decidedly flat and were deservedly beaten by the Potters.
Full story pages 2-3





Stoke City's Bojan Krkic scores his side's first goal of the game during the match at St Mary's Stadium this afternoon. Picture: Chris Ison/PA



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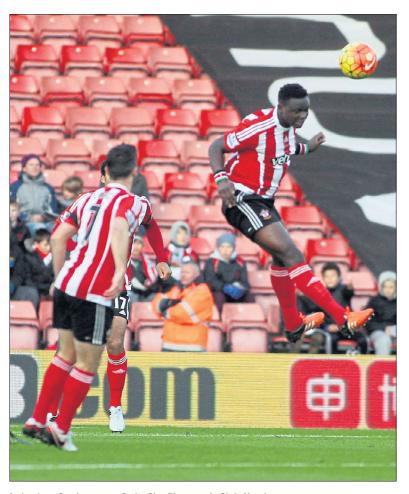






Premier League: SAINTS 0 STOKE 1

Disappointing end to Saints' unbeaten run



Action from Southampton v Stoke City. Photograph: Chris Moorhouse.

SAINTS' unbeaten run came to a disappointing end as they were beaten 1-0 by Stoke at St Mary's.

Ronald Koeman's men went into the game looking to make it nine matches unbeaten in all competitions. But they returned from the international break looking decidedly flat and were deservedly beaten by the Potters, who scored the only goal of the game through Bojan Krkic after ten minutes.

The game had a rather odd feel to in the opening stages after the somewhat bizarre scene of the players lining up in the cold for the French national anthem, a Premier League-wide initiative to show sympathy for the victims of the Paris attacks.

Saints were the first to really get going and came close to taking the lead on six minutes.

Stoke failed to clear the ball from their box and it eventually fell to Dusan Tadic, who hit a great left footed shot on the turn from a tight angle which whistled narrowly wide of the far post.

Up the other end Maarten

Up the other end Maarten Stekelenburg got down fairly comfortably at his near post to save from Bojan Krkic. He was not able to repeat the trick on ten minutes though as Stoke took the lead.

The Potters worked the ball from Xherdan Shaqiri out on the right to Erik Pieters on the left and he put in a low cross. Bojan nipped in front

Team news

THE big team news for Saints was that Sadio Mane dropped to the bench as one of three changes made by Ronald Koeman from the team that defeated Sunderland last time out.

Shane Long was fit again after five weeks out injured and returned to the starting line-up in place of Mane, who came back from international duty with a minor ankle injury.

Victor Wanyama returned from a one-game ban with James Ward-Prowse dropping to the bench.

The other change came at right back where Cedric Soares

replaced Maya Yoshida.

Saints: Stekelenburg, Cedric, Fonte, van Dijk, Bertrand, Wanyama, Clasie, Long, S Davis, Tadic, Pelle. Subs: K Davis, Yoshida, Caulker,

Subs: K Davis, Yoshida, Caulke Romeu, Ward-Prowse, Juanmi, Mane.

Stoke: Butland, Johnson,

Shawcross, Wollscheid, Pieters, Whelan, Adam, Shaqiri, Bojan, Arnautovic, Walters. Subs: Haugaard, Ireland, Wilson, Afellay, Diouf, Cameron, Crouch.

of Jose Fonte at the near post and produced a brilliant finish, flicking it home with the outside of his foot inside the six yard box to beat Stekelenburg from close range at the near post.

Stekelenburg came to the rescue to stop Saints going two down on 16 minutes as Stoke broke quickly through Bojan, who fed in Shaqiri.

He was one-one-one with the Saints keeper who did a great job to spread himself to make the save.

Saints had half a chance on 22 minutes as Steven Davis delivered an inswinging free kick from the left which was met by Fonte but he could only head over.

Stoke were really in control of the game, with Saints making some very uncharacteristic and basic errors in possession.

They were also struggling to

cope with Bojan and Shaqiri, who were getting in between the lines to collect the ball, while taking an early lead gave them every incentive to defend deep and make life really hard for Saints.

Victor Wanyama thought he might get an opening when Jack Butland spilled a cross but the ball hit the Stoke keeper who got away with it.

A quick Saints break saw Tadic press forward and into the area but he fired wide from eight yards out.

Cedric Soares took a nasty bang to the head from the flailing arm of Bojan moments before the break, causing an injury which required a lot of attention and an impressive bandage.

When the half time whistle went there was plenty of work to do for Ronald Koeman.

Stoke came out of the traps flying and should have been further ahead less than a min-



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Stoke City's Bojan Krkic cuts between Southampton's Ryan Bertrand and Virgil Van Dijk (right)

ute after the restart.

Marko Arnautovic cut the ball back from inside the area to Shaqiri who had the chance to shoot from just inside the area but fired over the bar.

Saints recovered to start getting a foothold into the game for really the first time.

However, they still were not quite flowing in the final third as they struggled to create a clear cut chance in the face of determined Stoke defending.

Wanyama at least tried to get a shot away from 20 yards, though it went wide of the post.

Saints made their first change on 64 minutes with Sadio Mane replacing Jordy Clasie. Steven Davis dropped into a deeper role with Mane playing through the middle.

Stoke immediately responded with Ibrahim Afellay coming on for Shaqiri.

Saints appealed for a penalty two minutes later as Shane Long bounced off Arnautovic in the area but referee Lee Mason waved it away.

Stoke made a second change on 71 minutes with Geoff Cameron coming on for Bojan.

James Ward-Prowse was introduced moments later for Steven Davis.

Arnautovic should have put the game to bed on 77 minutes as Glen Johnson played the ball round the back of the Saints defence, perfectly into the path of the on running midfielder.

He had time to pick his spot but blazed over the bar when he should have scored

Ward-Prowse provided a decent free kick from a difficult angle as Saints tried to find a way back into the game but it was tricky header for Fonte who steered it wide.

Stoke came agonisingly close to a second again on minutes as Afellay came in from the right and unleashed a fierce low shot that flashed just wide of the far post.

Saints were asking for a penalty



Southampton's Graziano Pelle is banned for the trip to Manchester City. Picture: Chris Moorhouse



The teams pay their respects to those killed in Paris last weekend

again moments later as Phillip Wollscheid attempted to clear a bouncing ball in the area but connected only with Graziano Pelle who was floored. It looked a much better shout than the previous one but again referee Mason turned it down.

Koeman had one last roll of the dice with five minutes remaining with Juanmi replacing Cedric before Stoke brought on Mame Biram Diouf for Jonathan Walters.

Ryan Bertrand kept Saints in the game with a minute left. clearing off the line after Afellay beat Stekelenburg.

There were four minutes of added time for Saints to try and get an equaliser but all that happened was a frustrating late booking for Pelle, which means he is now banned for the trip to Manchester

Ron didn't recognise his team

RONALD Koeman said he didn't recognise his Saints team in the first half of their 1-0 defeat to Stoke.

The Saints boss admitted there was a strange atmosphere at St Mary's with increased security and the playing of the French national anthem, all as a result of the attacks on Paris, creating a strange vibe around the ground.

The performance was also very flat from Saints, who were lucky to trail at the break by just one goal, scored by Bojan Krkic after just ten minutes.

Saints were a little better in the second half, and might have had a penalty when Graziano Pelle appeared to have been fouled in the

But in the end Saints didn't really deserve anything from the game with Stoke squandering several late chances to score a second.

Koeman said: "Yes, we know it's always difficult, but I think it was more difficult now because of what happened last week, because in my opinion I didn't recognise my team in the first 45 minutes.
"I didn't recognise the atmosphere

"I didn't recognise the atmosphere in the stadium in the first half, because about all the circumstances what happened last week. "I think Stoke was more

"I think Stoke was more comfortable from the start in the game with some mistakes in ball possession which makes it even more difficult.

"Own goal, 1-0 down, but the second half was better. It was more close to the level what we can bring at home. The first 30 minutes good pressing, some good chances, maybe a clear penalty the second situation

against Grazinao.

"Also in the last 15-20 minutes the best chances for Stoke to kill the

"Difficult. You know to beat Stoke you need a high level, you need extra quality up front, and the whole team performance was not the Southampton level."

Saints will have to face the might of Manchester City without Graziano Pelle after the striker collected his fifth booking of the season.

The Italian striker picked up a yellow card in stoppage time at the end of the 1-0 defeat at St Mary's. He handled a high diagonal and then kicked the ball into the stands in

It was Pelle's fifth booking of the season, meaning a one-match suspension that will be served as Saints visit the Etihad Stadium.



Ronald Koeman

Premier League: SWANSEA 2 CHERRIES 2



Dan Gosling scores the second Cherries' goal

Cherries take point after spirited Swans fight back

ANDRE Ayew came to Garry Monk's rescue as Swansea fought back from a twogoal deficit to draw 2-2 with **Bournemouth at the Liberty** Stadium.

Swansea were second-best for long periods and the manner of the performance will not convince the doubters that manager Monk can stop the club's alarming slide.

But at least Monk's men showed plenty of spirit after Joshua King and Dan Gosling had fired Bourne mouth into a commanding lead after 26 minutes to give the Cherries hope of a first win in eight games.

Ayew pulled a goal back within two minutes of Gosling's strike with a classy back-heel and then won a penalty, albeit in dubious circumstances. which Jonjo Shelvey stroked home before the break.

Monk had responded to Swansea's run of one win in nine games by making four changes - regulars Federico Fernandez, Jefferson Montero, Gylfi Sigurdsson and Bafetimbi Gomis all dropping out - but the hosts were out of sorts and a long way removed from the side which finished eighth last season.

Bournemouth's bright start was rewarded after 10 minutes when Kyle Bartley's attempted clearance struck Ki Sung-yueng and fell into the path

of Junior Stanislas.

The winger intelligently cut the ball back for an unmarked King to finish for his first goal since February and his first for the Cherries in



Swansea City's Andre Avew hits the ground after a challenge from AFC Bournemouth's Simon Francis during the match at the Liberty Stadium

13 attempts

Swansea hit back instantly and Adam Federici was forced to deny Wayne Routledge and Eder in quick succession but Bournemouth were creating danger almost at will.

Leon Britton's slip allowed King to bear down on goal and Lukasz Fabi-anski saved and Stanislas saw his effort rightly ruled out for offside.

But there was no escape for Swan-sea when Charlie Daniels surged

through a timid Swansea midfield and Gosling helped it onto Matt Ritchie.

Swansea seemed as if they had stopped the danger but Ritchie picked out Gosling who finished with a delightful shot high past Fabianski.

There were jeers in the stands but two minutes later they turned to cheers as Daniels climbed above Eder to meet Neil Taylor's cross but only directed it towards Shelvey.

The England midfielder headed it forward to Ayew who had stayed onside to cleverly back-heel the ball past Federici for his sixth Swansea

Ayew was also heavily involved in Swansea's equaliser as referee Andre Marriner felt Simon Francis had brought him down in the penalty area, despite the Ghanaian appearing to trip himself.

Shelvey stepped up to plant the ball firmly past Federici's outstretched left hand and Swansea were incredibly level after being disjointed for so

much of the first period.

Bournemouth could count themselves unlucky to be level but they continued to take the game to Swan-sea in the second half with Harry Arter testing Fabianski from dis tance and Steve Cook flashing wide a far-post volley.

Swansea briefly stirred towards the end when Montero made an impact from the bench, but Bournemouth will leave south Wales feeling they let two points slip through their grasp.

Injury woe increases for United

MANCHESTER United's injury crisis has deepened after were both forced off during the Red Devils' 2-1 win over Watford earlier today.

Herrera provided a superb cross for Memphis Depay's opening goal at Vicarage Road but lasted only 25 minutes, as a hamstring strain meant he had to be replaced by Marcos Rojo.

Jones was also substituted after the England defender twisted his ankle and United manager Louis van Gaal now expects both players to miss Wednesday's Champions League clash at home to PSV Eindhoven.

Watford looked like they had snatched a draw when Troy Deeney equalised with a late penalty but in injury time the striker went from hero to villain as his own goal gifted United victory.

United already have a lengthy list of absentees, including Wayne Rooney (illness). Anthony Martial (foot), Marouane Fellaini (calf), Michael Carrick (ankle), Antonio Valencia (foot) and Luke Shaw (leg). Van Gaal also said striker James Wilson has a swollen

"We are in a lousy period because there are a lot of injuries," Van Gaal said.

"Jones has a twisted ankle and Herrera maybe a hamstring injury. Rooney is ill and illness is a matter of days, not weeks.

"I do expect that he shall play Wednesday. "Martial has a foot problem. It is not so heavy as the media has written but you never know,

ve have to wait and see.
United's shortage of forward options offered an opportunity for Depay against Watford, who made his first league start since the 3-0 loss to Arsenal on October 4.

Depay's United career has been one of fits and starts since his £25million move in the summer and Van Gaal admitted this week he had expected more of the 21-year old this season.

A lively display, however, was capped off by an excellent finish in the first half as Depay struck a sweet volley into the top corner to

give United the lead.
"The goal was superb," Van Gaal said.
"A fantastic pass from



Ander Herrera (centre)

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National League: EASTLEIGH 0 GRIMSBY 1

Grimsby jinx strikes again as Spitfires lose to nemesis

THE Grimsby Town jinx continued for Eastleigh this afternoon as they were edged 1-0 in the National League by last season's nemesis at the Silverlake Stadium

Four times the Mariners beat the Spitfires last term, crushing their play-off dream, and it was the visitors who triumphed once again – a single Padraig Amond strike ending an impressive run of five straight victories for Chris Todd's men.

The Spitfires made two changes from the 41 win at Guiseley with skipper Ben Strevens back from a one-match ban and new loan signing Wes Atkinson making his debut at right-back.

Joe Partington moved across into central defence to cover for the injured Jamie Turley.

There was little to excite in the opening exchanges with two in-form sides sounding each other out.

But it was Grimsby who settled

But it was Grimsby who settled first, forcing two successive corners in the eighth minute and then threatening in the 12th when new boy Atkinson dashed to the rescue in with a superb tackle on Alex Jones as he bore down on Ross Flitney's goal.

Not for the first time in recent weeks Eastleigh began unconvincingly at home and had to block an Andy Monkhouse shot after Conor Townsend's dangerous cross had been flkcked on. Then Will Evans did well to get the ball away for another Grimsby corner after Nathan Arnold had put Jones in again.

The Spirtfires so nearly responded with a goal against the run of play when Josh Payne whipped in a dangerous free-kick from the left. James Constable rose and the ball came off a Grimsby head and clipped the bar on its way over.

On 29 minutes Michael Green embarked on an enterprising run down the left but, having got the better of Richard Tait, his cross was too far in front of Constable.

Less than a minute later Grimsby took the lead right under the noses of their noisy band of travelling fans in the Mackoy Community Stand.

Evans looked to have snuffed out the initial danger, but the Mariners kept possession and Jones played in top scorer PADRAIG AMOND to slide home his 13th goal of the season.

As a bit of edge crept into the game, Eastleigh's Andy Drury was booked along with Grimsby's rather fortunate Craig Clay, who appeared to lean his head towards the Spitfires midfielder.

Apart from a couple of flashes of promise from October player-of-themonth Yemi Odubade, the Spitfires were struggling to impose them-



Ben Strevens had a shot deflected for the Spitfires



Eastleigh goalkeeper Ross Flitney

selves and Flitney had to get down among the boots to smother the ball on the line from Townsend's dangerous, low corner.

The second half was a slow burner, just like the first, with only a turn and shot by Grimsby No19 Jones, easily saved by Flitney, threatening to warm up a chilly afternoon at the Silverlake.

Silverlake.

But, as Eastleigh began to go through the gears, Strevens had a shot deflected out for a corner after latching onto Payne's clever lay-off and then visiting keeper Jams McKeown got behind a firm strike by Jai Reason who had combined with Con-

stable on the left of the area.

Odubade then scampered his way into the Grimsby area but he didn't have the strength to round the towering figure of Aristote Nsiala and his shot squirmed behind.

Alarm bells began ringing again for Eastleigh on the hour when, having been initially denied by Evans, Townsend tried to catch Flitney offguard but the Eastleigh keeper was wise to it and managed to tip the ball over the bar.

Odubade's pace drew a couple of free-kicks for the Spitfires – the first at the expense of a booking for Josh Gowling, and then a frustrated looking Strevens entered referee Wayne Barratt's notebook for clipping goalscorer Amond.

It was to be Strevens' last contribution as he was sacrificed for the extra strike power of sub Ross Lafayette.

The next chance was the Mariners', however, with Nsiala heading onto the top netting from Townsend's corner

Grimsby then made a substitutioin of their own, withdrawing the impressive Jones and throwing on fitagain frontman Jon-Paul Pittman.

With Eastleigh needing to up the intensity, an increasingly scrappy game looked in danger of fizzling out.

A ray of hope appeared when Odubade was upended yet again, earning a caution for Townsend, but Jai Reason's free-kick was easily headed clear by a commanding Grimsby defence.

Then, with just seconds of the four minutes of extra time remaining, Eastleigh earned another free kick when Nsiala wrestled over Lafayette on the right of the area. But Payne's free kick failed to find an Eastleigh head and the ensuing scramble came to nothing, just about summing up Eastleigh's frustrating afternoon.

Eastleigh: Ross Flitney, Wes Atkinson, Michael Green, Ben Strevens (Ross Lafayette, 77), Will Evans, Joe Partington, Josh Payne, Andy Drury, James Constable, Jai Reason, Yemi Odubade (Jack Midson, 90). Subs: Michael Poke, Paul Reid, Lee Cook.

Results

VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE SOUTH

Basingstoke 0 Maidstone 1 Chelmsford 0 Eastbourne Boro 3 Ebbsfleet 4 Bishop's Stortford 2 Ebbsfleet 4 Bishop's Stortford 2 Hemel Hempstead 1 Margate 2 Maidenhead pp Dartford Oxford City 1 Gosport Boro 2 Sutton 3 Havant & Waterlooville Wealdstone 2 Bath City 0 Weston-S-Mare 4 St Albans 1 Whithbawk 0 Concerd Panagers Whitehawk 0 Concord Rangers 2
EVO-STIK SOUTHERN LEAGUE Bedworth 0 Chippenham 2 Bedworth 0 Chippenham 2 Bidelord 0 Kings Lynn 5 Cambridge City pp Frome Dorchester 0 Hungerford 1 Dunstable 2 Weymouth 1 Hitchin 2 Cirencester 0 Leamington 2 Histon 1 Merthyr Town 1 Kettering 1 Paulton Rovers 2 Chesham 0 Poole Town 3 St Neots 0 Redditch 2 Biggleswade 2 Slough 2 Stratford 4 Division One South & West Division One South & West Banbury 2 Wimborne 0 Bishops Cleeve 1 Bridgwater 0 Cinderford 1 Slimbridge 0 Evesham 6 AFC Totton 0 Larkhall 3 Burnham 0 Mangotsfield 5 Bashley 0 North Leiph 1 Vate 1 North Leigh 1 Yate 1 Shortwood 0 Didcot 3 Taunton 0 Swindon Supermarine 0
Wantage 1 Marlow 0
Winchester City 0 Tiverton 0
FA VASE, second round proper
Bristol Manor Farm 2 Lymington Town 1
Buckland Athletic 5 Sholing 2
Hallen 0 Moneyfields 1
Newport loW 3 Abbey Rangers 1 aet
Salisbury 4 St Austell 0
Tadley Calleva 4 Haywards Heath 0 aet
Welton Rovers 1 Plymouth Parkway 0
SYDENHAMS WESSEX LEAGUE
Premier Division Taunton 0 Swindon Supermarine 0 Premier Division AFC Portchester 6 Team Solent 0 AFC Portchester 6 Team Solent 0
Bournemouth Poppies 0 Horndean 1
Brockenhurst 3 Hamworthy United 3
Fareham Town pp Folland Sports
Fawley AFC 1 Alresford Town 1
Verwood 3 Whitchurch United 2
Division One
AFC Stoneham 0 Amesbury 1
Alton 0 Romsey 3
Christchurch 2 Totton & Eling 1
Downton 4 Pawsey Vale 0 Downton 4 Pewsey Vale 0 Hythe & Dibden 3 Ringwood 2 Laverstock & Ford 2 Fleet Spurs 0 Portland 6 New Milton 0 US Portsmouth 2 Andover NS 0 WILTSHIRE SENIOR CUP Chippenham Park 1 Bemerton HH 1aet pens 2-3.
HAMPSHIRE INTERMEDIATE CUP, second round QK Southamptn 0 Clanfield 1 Widbrook United 1 Bush Hill 2 PUMA ENGINEERING HAMPSHIRE PREMIER LEAGUE Premier Division
Colden Common pp Fleetlands Colden Common pp Fleetlands Liphnook 2 Stockbridge O Liss Athletic 5 Hedge End Rangers 0 Otterbourne 1 Baffins Milton Rovers 2 Paulsgrove 0 Infinity 4 Division One Hayling United 0 Michelmersh & T 4 Lyndburst no Sway. Lyndhurst pp Sway Michelmersh & Timsbury 0 Four Marks 1 Combination East Baffins Milton 2 Liss 4
Headley 1 Hayling United 1
SOUTHAMPTON SENIOR CUP, third y Central Sports 3 Winchester City Chamberlayne Athletic 4 Hedge End Town 2 SOUTHAMPTON JUNIOR A CUP, semi Park Phoenix 2 BTC Soton A 3 NORTH HANTS SENIOR CUP, first round Overton 2 Winchester Castle 1 ALDERSHOT INTERMEDIATE CUP, first Frimley Select 3 Headley United 4 NORTH HANTS INTERMEDIATE CUP, Winchester Castle Res 1 Overton Res 1 DREW SMITH SOUTHAMPTON LEAGUE Comrades 3 Soton University 5 Durley 0 Braishfield 2 Bishops Waltham Dyn 4 East Boldre 1 Warsash Wasps 5 BTC Soton Res 0.



SAINTS' FIRST TEAM FIXTURES AND RESULTS 2015/16





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Sat 21 Stoke (3pm)															
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Sat 19 Tottenham (3pm)															
Sat 26 Arsenal (7.45pm)															
Mon 28 West Ham (5.30pm) A															
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Sat 2 Norwich City (3pm)															
Wed 13 Watford (7.45pm) H Sat 16 WBA (3pm)															
Sat 23 Man Utd (3pm)A															
FEBRUARY															
Tues 2 Arsenal (7.45pm)A															
Sat 6 West Ham (3pm) H															
Sat 13 Swansea (3pm) A															
Sat 27Chelsea (3pm)H															
MARCH Tues 1 AFC Bournemouth (7.45pm)A															
Sat 5 Sunderland (3pm)H															
Sat 12 Stoke (3pm)															
Sat 19 Liverpool (3pm)															
APRIL															
Sat 2 Leicester (3pm)															
Sat 9 Newcastle (3pm)															
Sat 16 Everton (3pm)															
Sat 30 Manchester City (3pm) H															
MAY															
Sat 7 Tottenham (3pm)															
Sun 15 Crystal Palace (3pm)H															

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FRASER FORSTER	0	0	0	0	37	0	JASON MCCARTHY	0	0	0	0	0(1)	0	SADIO MANE	10(1)	2	4	3	39(7)	15
KELVIN DAVIS	1	0	0	0	299(2)	0	STEVEN CAULKER	1(1)	0	3	0	4	0	GASTON RAMIREZ	0(1)	0	0(1)	0 :	27(25)	8
M STEKELENBURG	12	0	5	0	17	0	STEVEN DAVIS	10(1)	2	4	01	06(22)	8	JAY RODRIGUEZ	2(6)	0	3(1)	3	64(24)	29
PAULO GAZZANIGA	0	0	0	0	20(1)	0	HARRISON REED	0	0	0(2)	0	7(13)	0	GRAZIANO PELLE	12	6	4	2	56(2)	24
MAYA YOSHIDA	6(4)	0	4(1)	1	75(11)	2	VICTOR WANYAMA	9	0	3	0 6	64(10)	3	SHANE LONG	1(3)	1	1(3)	3 :	23(24)	11
JOSE FONTE	11	1	5	0	236(5)	14	LLOYD ISGROVE	0	0	0	0	2(4)	0	RYAN SEAGER	0	0	0	0	0(2)	0
CEDRIC SOARES	9	0	2	0	11	0	SAM MCQUEEN	0	0	0	0	0(1)	0	ORIOL ROMEU	4(4)	0	3	0	7(4)	0
RYAN BERTRAND	5	0	0(1)	0	42(2)	2	JORDY CLASIE	2(1)	0	1	0	2(1)	0	JUANMI	0(3)	0	1(4)	0	1(7)	0
FLORIN GARDOS	0	0	0	0	11(6)	0	JAMES WARD-PROWSE	6(4)	0	3	0	59(43)	2	EMMANUEL MAYUKA	0	0	0	0	3(16)	1
MATT TARGETT	6	0	4	0	18(4)	0	DOMINIC GAPE	0	0	0	0	0(1)	0	VIRGIL VAN DIJK	7	2	1	0	7	2
CUCO MARTINA	0(3)	0	2	0	2(3)	0	DUSAN TADIC	10	3	2(1)	- 1	40(9)	9							

Saturday, November 21, 2015 DAILY ECHO

Adam Rant



The week's big talking points with ADAM LEITCH

It's our right and duty to be happy

Stadiums will feel different, but we should still go

IT'S almost impossible to know how you will to any situation that might befall you in the future.

You can think of what you might like to do, the best case scenario, the worst case scenario.

But until you are put into a particular situation, it is only guess-

This weekend there are going to be a lot of people stepping into football grounds, not to mention concert venues, other sports stadiums, or any place where thousands congregate at once, with a slight sense of trepidation.

Those usual cheery walks to the stadium might feel a little nervier, the loud noises when you are in might make people a little jumpier.

The reason of course is the awful events of Paris, where so many people just went out to enjoy their lives, doing nobody any harm, and never got to return home.

Of course, those of us who were planning to go to the football, or to whatever else we enjoy, must still do so. We all know we must.

Whether you believe that the terrorists killing so many people is or is not a victory for them, to strike such fear into us that we no longer go about enjoying our normal lives is not an option.

That doesn't make it less worrying though.

Adam Rant admits that it is even a different feeling for him heading to St Mary's for the Saints game this weekend. It does feel as though something has changed.

He will still be there, so will everybody else, standing up and being counted for what you believe in, a world where innocent people are not indiscriminately killed.

But it does still feel somehow different.

It was sadly inevitable that an event such as what took place in Paris would happen.

Leaving aside the politics and religion of the situation for a sporting column, if we are to assume that terrorists will look to attack then sporting and concert venues are obvious targets.

People fear terrorist strikes on planes but if you are travelling from many major countries, to pull off a plot like that takes some doing in this day and age, even if the events



French fan Jean-Michel Escoffier outside Wembley before the friendly against England

in Egypt recently prove it is still pos-

But go to any concert, go to many football matches, and the security is not exactly overbearing, and nor can it be. There are too many people. this is normal life.

It is inevitably a target, like public transport and packed shopping centres and cities, because of the ability to cause carnage so quickly.

We know that, and yet we have to

accept it and go anyway.

That is our duty. It's our right and our duty.

Will it feel this way forever? Hopefully not. Normality returns quickly even in these circumstances

Disrupting fixture list

WE ARE now heading towards the busiest part of the football season, but it is still a slight relief that the international fixtures are finally over, for at least little while.

It might well be that there is no other way to organise the fixture calendar than how it is currently set up, but to have three international breaks before the middle of November does really disrupt the flow of the season.

You no sooner get a few games played then it is all off for another couple of weeks. Then repeat two more times.

You start to get a sense of what might unfold, but it's hard to really get a proper grasp on it until you have that really unrelenting run of games which starts to wind up from now.

It is a shame for Saints that this break came when it did, such was their form, but if they can pick up where they left off then this might be a very exciting time for Ronald



Ronald Koema

Lomu was incredible

IT CAN seem hard to believe when somebody you thought was pretty much invincible dies.

That has been the general reaction to Jonah Lomu passing away at the age of just 40

Anybody who saw this guy playing rugby was awestruck. His power and aggression

were just incredible.

Even big rugby players
seemed to bounce off him as
if they weren't there when he

got into full stride.

Somehow in your mind these guys are not even really human, they are something more than that.

So to go so early, and beset by kidney problems reminds us we are all mortal.

However, the memories the likes of Lomu leave behind means they live forever.

SAINTS SPOTLIGHT

Saints cannot just rely on deadly trio

Boss highlights performances of other key players

RONALD Koeman has insisted that Saints cannot rely purely on their front three to provide the goals they need to fire them to glory this sea-

Graziano Pelle, Sadio Mane and Dusan Tadic have grabbed many of the headlines and the plaudits for their fantastic start to this season.

The attacking trio have been on great form, and have helped Saints to progress up the table after an up and down opening few weeks.

However, Koeman has warned that the team's attacking threat cannot come purely from those three, and nor does he believe that he does

Koeman highlighted the performances of Steven Davis but also the threat posed by his full backs, in particular Ryan Bertrand who has been quite superb since his return from injury.

The good news for Saints is that with a year of Premier League football under their belts, Koeman feels his front three have a chance of sustaining their form.

He said: "It's also about the experience of these players because last year it was the first season for Sadio, it was the first season for Dusan, it was the first season for Graziano.

"They have now the experience of how tough the Premier League is, how tough the season is

"They are looking fit, they are looking sharp at the moment and that's good. We need that kind of players.

"Steven Davis also the last few weeks is playing a very high level and he is scoring goals for his nation that's very good.

"Ryan Bertrand is doing fantastic and it's not about three strikers, it's about the offensive mentality of the players and we need some support to the strikers.

Certainly on recent form the attacking trio would be regarded by many as amongst the very best in the Premier League.

There are few other teams that can boast such a variety of strength, aerial ability, pace and skill, as well as the ability to deliver goals.

It makes Saints a very tough side to play against, and that has been reflected in their results.

Koeman added: "I don't know if it's



Graziano Pelle and Dusan Tadic have been on great form for Saints

the best but I think we have different ways to attack and that's always more difficult for defending

A hallmark of Koeman's time in charge of Saints has been a refusal to allow the team to stand still.

Instead, the Saints boss is always focussed on progression, and the little things that he and his coaching staff might be able to do to make the team better still, and that goes for attacking too.

"We change some details with the understanding between Ryan and Dusan, and the running movements of course," he admitted.

"You do the training sessions to improve and to make players better and finally the team is winning."

Koeman is also pleased with the progress of Jordy Clasie.

The summer signing had a tough start due to injuries, but is now regaining full fitness.

"I think he makes goods steps, said Koeman, who also manage Clasie at Feyenoord.

"He played the last two Premier League games, not for 90 minutes but also the first friendly for Hol-

"It was good he didn't play last Tuesday because maybe that was too much in one week

"Now he's ready and in my opinion he's close to be 100 per cent

Pulis hits out at FAs

TONY Pulis has aimed friendly fire at Football Associations and insisted they should cover the costs for his international stars

The West Brom boss believes the governing bodies should pay the players wages while they are with their countries for friendly

James Chester played 90 minutes in Wales' 3-2 defeat to Holland while Jonny Evans and Gareth McAuley also played the full game as Northern Ireland beat Latvia 1-0 last week.

Pulis has been a longstanding critic of international breaks and labelled friendlies as a 'waste of space' this month.

Questions were also being asked behind the scenes at Saints after Shane Long plated much of the second Ireland, despite only being fit enough to have one training session after five weeks out injured

Ronald Koeman refrained from any public criticisms of Ireland boss Martin O'Neill. but did admit he was "surprised" to see Long playing, and added that it was not what he would have done had he been in charge.

Pulis said: "If you went to all the FAs and said that for friendly matches, you're going to pay the wages for two weeks, and if they get injured you're going to cover those injuries, and if they never play again you cover the insurance, let's see how many friendly games are played then.

"My argument is that at this time of the year there are lots of games.
"They have played lots of

"For Gareth McAuley to go away and play for Northern Ireland when he is 35 years of age and plays every game for us, then plays another 90 minutes for his country - I am not so sure as a manager I would do that.

"I'm not criticising the manager of Northern Ireland (Michael O'Neill), that's his responsibility to do what he



Tony Pulis

Saturday, November 21, 2015 DAILY ECHO

Paine's World

The Saints legend's

EXCLUSIVE

column on all things footbal



Championship circus looks set to continue

ANYONE hoping that last season was going to be a one off can start thinking again, as the manager sackings and crazy off field activity continues to dominate the Championship.

Clubs seem willing now to do anything to get to the prize of the Premier League payout, and that seems to be at the cost of the integrity of the league. So is the Championship becoming something of a joke division?

Over the past few seasons, the Champion-

Over the past few seasons, the Championship has been developing into one of the most exciting and well supported divisions in Europe.

In part this is due to the extra money floating down from the top division and a steady increase in so called 'large' clubs getting relegated. But it isn't just down to money; the excitement and quality of football on offer has also helped make it attractive and marketable

Increased attendances have also meant increased focus on the division. Whilst manager sackings and Championship stories are hardly likely to make more than local news as far as TV is concerned, the press is another story.

Only a few years ago, the entire division was allocated a single page for the weekend results round up. Now, some teams get reviews that are almost as long as Premier League teams and breaking news is often the headline on sports websites.

Normally a little extra attention is a good thing, especially when you lived exiled away from the club you support.

However, over the past two seasons, most of the press coming out of the Championship is hardly good news.

We have manager sackings by the bus load, owners more interested in making headlines than running a club, fans sued for what they write and players going AWOL (among other things).

Rarely a week goes by without a club hitting the headlines for the wrong reason and, whilst obviously other clubs in other divisions are also joining the party, there is barely a Championship club now you would define as well run.

Just a look over the last couple of week's headlines and we have four managers sacked, Bolton denying they are about to enter administration and Leeds' owner refusing to sell the club.

The most frustrating part of this is that little has changed from last season.

With just a third of the season behind us, we have now reached the point where a third of the teams have changed their manager, which is pretty much the same as last year.

Of course this isn't to say that nothing good is happening in the division, but the incredible turnarounds of Brighton and



Gary Bowyer is the latest managerial casualty in the Championship after being sacked by Blackburn Rovers

Birmingham are afterthoughts

Controversy and anger attract more hits than feel good stories and, as long as Championship clubs are delivering, this is going to be the sole focus. Exactly how to shift the attention back to the success stories isn't clear and probably isn't going to happen.

The most obvious solution would be for the owners of Championship clubs to figure out exactly what it takes to run a club happily.

Far too many of the owners have what I would see as strange ideas on how to deal with the fans and seem surprised when fans don't take their ideas on board (especially

when it involves name and colour changes).

The lower down the football ladder you go, the more clubs need to keep the fans on side, and that's something some of the new owners need to be reminded of.

Teams with smaller fan bases don't have scores of people waiting to take the place of fans that leave, and the only way these teams will survive is with the fans.

The managerial changes are an issue on their own. It seems we are still dealing with the fallout from last season, where so many of the sackings seemed hasty, meaning that the right person was not necessarily brought in as a replacement.

If managers aren't given time to install their ideas and imprint on the team, then how much to blame are they when the club doesn't do well?

What the Championship needs now is a little bit of rationality to come back, a chance for players and managers to show what they can do, and a chance for the fans to enjoy supporting their team without worrying about the owners.

Unfortunately what it seems we are more likely to get is another year of turmoil and madness

George Best's remarkable achievements

GEORGE Best, one of Britain's greatest ever players, died 10 years ago next Wednesday.

Here, the Sports Pink looks back at the key dates in his remarkable life.

1946: Born May 22, Belfast.
1963: Leaves school and turns
professional with Manchester United.
Travels from Belfast with Eric
McMordie, who went on to play for
Middlesbrough, to Old Trafford. The
pair return to Northern Ireland because
they are homesick but United manager
Matt Busby travels after him and
persuades Best to come back to
Manchester. Makes First Division debut
on September 13 against West Brom at
Old Trafford.

1964: Makes Northern Ireland debut, seven months after making his first-team debut, against Wales in Swansea.

1965: Helps United win their first league championship in eight years.

1966: Mesmerises Benfica, regarded as one of the finest teams in Europe, by scoring twice in the opening 10 minutes as United become the first team to inflict a European defeat on the Portuguese side in the Stadium of Light. United win 5-1 and Best is hailed as 'El Beatle' by the fans.

1967: United win league championship.



George Best celebrates the 1968 European Cup victory.

1968: Manchester United become the first English team to win the European Cup, Best scoring in a 4-1 extra-time triumph over Benfica at Wembley. Picks up the English and European Footballer of the Year awards

1970: Scores six goals in an FA Cup fifth-round tie at Northampton. Sent off playing for Northern Ireland against Scotland in Belfast for throwing mud at referee.

1971: Withdraws from the Northern Ireland squad after threats on his life. Scores a hat-trick against Cyprus in Relfact

1972: Announces retirement.

1973: Makes short comeback after making peace with new United boss Tommy Docherty before again retiring after another bust-up.

1974: Plays for Jewish Guild of Johannesburg but his short spell in South Africa is characterised by his heavy drinking and gambling lifestyle Dunstable Town manager, his former Manchester United team-mate Barry Fry, persuades him to turn out for his club in a friendly

club in a friendly.

1975: Plays for Stockport on loan, making three league appearances and scoring two goals. Joins Los Angeles Aztecs and also plays for Cork City.

Continued on facing page

Saints' superb reco

SAINTS were this weekend attempting to improve their impressive home record against Stoke City.

In terms of post-war games, Saints have won 20 out of the 24 games played and have not lost to the Potters at either The Dell or St Mary's since the 1980/81 season.

Here, Ryan Grant looks back at all the post-war meetings between the two clubs on Southampton soil.

April 8 1961

Saints 0 Stoke 1 - Division Two The first post-war league meeting at The Dell saw John Page miss an early penalty for the hosts. Mudie

scored the only goal 18 minutes from time

April 28 1962

Saints 5 Stoke 1 - Division Two Saints ran riot on the last day of the 1961/62 season, with both clubs sitting comfortably in the top half.

Viollet gave Stoke the lead in the 21st minute, but a brilliant 25-yard strike from Brian Clifton and a 41st minute goal from Derek Reeves saw Saints lead at half-time.

George O'Brien netted a penalty in the 71st minute, with Derek Reeves and O'Brien again completing the rout.

May 22 1963

Saints 2 Stoke 0 - Division Two Terry Paine bagged himself a brace as Saints triumphed in an-

other last-day encounter.

Paine was gifted his opener in the 36th minute after Stoke's keeper misjudged the flight of the ball, and he added a second shortly into the second half.

Despite the defeat, Stoke still ended the season as second tier chamnions

November 5 1966

Saints 3 Stoke 2 - Division One Saints' promotion from Division Two meant the sides met again on the 5th November 1966 at The Dell.

Terry Paine continued where he had left off three years earlier by giving Ted Bates' side the lead after four minutes.

The winger then turned provider for Ron Davies to head home before the Welsh forward added his second nine minutes later.

Second- half strikes from Dennis Viollet and Ritchie set up a nervous finale

February 3 1968

Saints 1 Stoke 2 - Division One Burrows and Palmer gave the Potters a 2-0 lead, with Ron Davies grabbing an 89th minute consolation.

August 28 1968

Saints 2 Stoke 0 - Division One Terry Paine was on target again as Saints beat Tony Waddington's

Paine found himself free in the penalty box after John Sydenham's corner was flicked on by Jimmy



Sadio Mane celebrates his winner against Stoke in October 2014



Mark Whitlock gets a congratulatory hug from Mike Channon after scoring the winner in March 1982

Gabriel to give Saints the lead in the 48th minute.

Mick Channon doubled the lead two minutes from time.

December 27 1969 Saints 0 Stoke 0 - Division One

January 30 1971

Saints 2 Stoke 1 - Division One Brian O'Neil's magnificent strike in the fifth minute gave Saints an early lead, before Stoke levelled through Jimmy Greenhoff.

Just before the hour mark, Ron Davies headed home from a Tom Jenkins's cross.

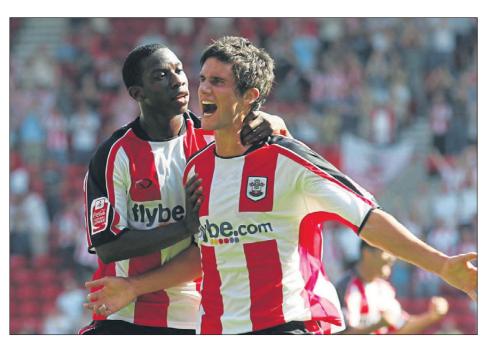
August 18. 1971

Saints 3 Stoke 1 - Division One Mike Channon put Saints ahead in the eighth minute with a composed finished past Gordon Banks, before Denis Smith then scored an Saturday, November 21, 2015 **DAILY ECHO**

rd at home to Stoke



Jose Fonte is incensed after ex-Saint Peter Crouch fouls Morgan Schneiderlin in February 2014



Andrew Surman has just scored for Saints against Stoke in August 2007

own goal.

Bobby Stokes added a third straight after half-time volleying in from a Jenkins cross

Jimmy Greenhoff netted a late consolation

August 15 1972 Saints 1 Stoke 0 - Division One

Mike Channon scored in the 40th minute, latching onto a 40-yard pass from Hugh Fisher to lash home a left-footed strike.

October 20 1973

Saints 3 Stoke 0 - Division One Goals from Terry Paine and Bobby Stokes gave Saints fans some

thing to cheer in a season which saw them relegated.

In only the second minute, Paine's cross was dropped over the line before Stokes added a second. Stokes netted again right on half-time.

December 31 1977 Saints 1 Stoke 0 - Division Two

Phil Boyar's glancing shot from Nick Holmes's cross was enough for Saints to claim victory.

December 1 1979

Saints 3 Stoke 1 - Division One Phil Boyer's opener was cancelled out in 68th minute through Alan Ir-

With the game heading for a draw, Mike Channon popped up in the 88th minute to give Saints the lead. and Boyer doubled his tally 60 sec-

October 11 1980

Saints 1 Stoke 2 - Division One Mike Channon was pulled down in the box in the 29th minute, and Charlie George converted calmly from 12 yards. Second-half strikes from Munro

and Hampton turned the game around, though.

March 27 1982

Saints 4 Stoke 3 - Division One A brilliant free-kick from Malcolm Waldron in the 24th minute gave Saints the lead, before Dave Armstrong and Mike Channon saw them lead 3-0 at half-time.

Stoke, though, hit back to level through Alan Biley, ex-Saint Dave Watson and Sammy Mcllroy.

Four minutes from time Mark Whitlock headed home a Nick Holmes free-kick to give Saints a dra-

December 4 1982

Saints 1 Stoke 0 - Division One Danny Wallace's 74th minute strike saw off 10-man Stoke.

Paul Bracewell had been dismissed seven minutes before half-

December 3 1983

Saints 3 Stoke 1 - Division One Saints fell behind early on as Robbie James silenced the home support in the 14th minute.

Danny Wallace volleyed in from eight yards and 60 seconds before half-time Saints went in front through Dave Armstrong's glancing header.

Mick Mills crashed a powerful shot into the roof of the net following great work from Wallace on the hour mark.

Saints 0 Stoke 0 - Division One Saints failed to score against a Stoke team that hadn't won away all season. The Potters were later

October 29 2005 Saints 2 Stoke 0 - Championship

Teen starlet Theo Walcott's third goal in as many matches eased Saints to a comfortable victory over 10-man Stoke.

Walcott gave Saints the lead before Marlon Broomes was shown a red card.

Djamel Belmadi netted late on to secure the points.

Continued on page 12

Despite his demons he was the Best

from facing page

1976: Joins Fulham, making 42 appearances with eight goals. 1977: Makes the last of 37

international appearances for Northern Ireland against Holland in Belfast.

1978: Joins Fort Lauderdale Strikers in America but a wrangle over his registration between the American club and Fulham leads to FIFA imposing a worldwide ban on him. Marries first wife Angie MacDonald James in Las Vegas.

1979: Plays for brief spell with Hibernian in Scotland.

1980: Signs for San Jose Earthquakes and begins treatment for

1981: Scores what he later described as his favourite goal in a 3-2 win over former club Fort Lauderdale. Son Calum Milan Best is born.

1983: Plays five times for Bournemouth before finally retiring. 1984: Jailed for drink-driving

1988: A testimonial organised by friends attracts 20,000 people in Belfast and raises £75,000 to help stave off bankruptcy.

1990: Causes storm of protest after appearing drunk and swearing on BBC TV's Terry Wogan chat show. Best claimed TV executives "plied" him with



George Best in action for Manchester United

champagne before the performance.

1995: Marries Alex Pursey.

1996: Announces he would be interested in succeeding Jack Charlton as Republic of Ireland manager but FAI appoints Millwall boss Mick McCarthy.

1998: Joins Sky Sports as football pundit.

2001: December - Reveals he is on standby for a liver transplant. 2002: July 30 - Goes into hospital for

December 8 - Awarded a Lifetime

Achievement Award at the BBC Sports Personality of the Year. 2003: August – Announced he was selling his trophies, including his 1968 European Footballer of the Year award,

to raise money to buy a Greek home. 2004: February - Banned from

driving for 20 months after pleading guilty to drink-driving.

April – Divorced from wife Alex. 2005: July - Cleared over allegations of indecently assaulting a teenage girl. October 1 - Doctors at the private Cromwell Hospital in west London reveal Best is in intensive care with

kidney problems November 18 - Suffers severe setback in his recovery as he contracts

November 25 - Dies in hospital, aged

Super Mario netted only goal v Stoke

from page 11

October 21 2006 Saints 1 Stoke 0 - Championship

Mario Licka scored the only goal in the 54th minute. It was to prove the Czech midfielder's only strike for Saints in 27 Championship appearances stretched over two seasons.

He is still playing in the Polish League, for LKS Nieciecza.

August 25 2007 Saints 3 Stoke 2 - Championship

Ex-Saint Ricardo Fuller gave the visitors an early lead, before Andrew Surman levelled.

Grzegorz Rasiak and John Viafara put George Burley's side 3-1 ahead, but Jon Parkin headed home with eight minutes left.

Stoke were to go on and win promotion to the Premier League at the end of the season, while Saints had to rely on a last-day win at home to Sheffield United to avoid relegation to the third tier.

May 19 2013 Saints 1 Stoke 1 - Premier League

Former Saints striker Peter Crouch



Mario Licka scored the winner against Stoke in October 2006.

opened the scoring, but Rickie Lambert equalised just before the hour mark on the last day of the season.

February 8 2014
Saints 2 Stoke 2 - Premier League

Both Lambert and Crouch netted

Peter Odemwingie cancelled out Lambert's opener in the 38th minute.

Steven Davis then put the home side 2-1 up three minutes later, before Crouch headed home just before halftime.

October 25 2014 Saints 1 Stoke 0 - Premier League

Senegal international Sadio Mane scored his first goal in English football just after the half hour mark.

The winger had thought he had opened his account in the previous game, the record-breaking 8-0 romp against Sunderland at St Mary's, but that 'goal' had been taken off him by the Premier League's 'goals' panel.

Pochettino is nurtu

ERIC Dier believes England have a lot to thank ex-Saints Mauricio Pochettino for.

Unlike many Premier League managers, the Tottenham head coach is not hamstrung by "fear" when it comes to giving young players a chance, writes SIMON CARTER.

Since arriving at Saints in January 2013, the former Argentina international has embraced young home-grown talent like no other top-flight boss.

Pochettino has helped nurture 10 of the last 18 newly-capped England players, including the likes of Harry Kane, Adam Lallana and Nathaniel Clyne.

All three featured in Tuesday's 2-0 win against France – a match which also saw his latest young talents make their first international starts.

Dele Alli repaid the faith with a goal and man-of-the-match performance, while Tottenham teammate Dier continued to impress in defensive midfield having been converted into the role by Pochettino over the summer.

"If you'd told me that in the summer that I would make my debut as a midfielder, I'd have thought you were crazy," the latter said.

"I think the manager was probably the only one who believed it at the beginning of the year and hopefully I have proved a lot of people

wrong.
"I am really pleased the manager (Roy Hodgson) gave me a chance and hopefully I took it. That's what you've got to do when you get chances."

However, chances are often few and far between for young English talent in the Premier League, making Pochettino's impact all the more impressive.

"Our club manager is giving young English players a chance and if you take it then I guess that's where you can end up," Dier said.

"That's what all us young Spurs boys have been doing. "Maybe he just doesn't have the

"Maybe he just doesn't have the fear that other managers have in giving people a chance, you know? "If we then didn't take our

"If we then didn't take our chance, then we probably wouldn't be where we are now.

"He has no fear in giving you a chance."

The other five recently-capped England senior internationals who Pochettino has worked with since arriving in England in January 2013 are as follows – Rickie Lambert, Jay Rodriguez, Luke Shaw, Calum Chambers (all Saints), Ryan Mason (Tottenham).

Pochettino has indirectly given England boss Roy Hodgson plenty of food for thought.

It is safe to say only a handful of England players can consider themselves an automatic choice for the first game of Euro 2016.

There's Wayne Rooney, obviously. Joe Hart, too. Gary Cahill probably. Is that it?



Tottenham's Dele Alli scores on his full England debut against France at Wembley



Nathaniel Clyne played a season at under Mauricio Pochettino, but made his debut under Ronald Koeman's watch

Clyne has won nine caps since making his international debut a year ago this month.

He has certainly done little wrong in any of his appearances. Against France he got into some good positions, even if the standard of his crosses left something to be de-

sired

In the centre of defence, Phil Jagielka, Chris Smalling, Phil Jones and John Stones will be competing to start alongside Cahill.

On the opposite side, current Saints left back Ryan Bertrand has benefitted from injuries to the man he replaced at St Mary's, Luke Shaw, and Leighton Baines to appear in the last four England internationals. Baines, who has not played a com-

Baines, who has not played a competitive game in 2015/16 yet for club or country, is currently recovering from an ankle ligament injury

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ring English talent



Adam Lallana made his senior England debut during Mauricio Pochettino's reign at Saints.



Spurs manager Pochettino, who has worked with 10 of the last 18 newly-capped senior England internationals

while Shaw suffered a broken leg in September playing for Manchester United.

If neither make Euro 2016, Bertrand's main rival will more than likely be Arsenal's Kieran Gibbs, who replaced him in the starting XI against France.

It is in midfield where Hodgson

could be handed his main headaches.

He will be lacking players with a mountain of international experience, men like the now retired Steven Gerrard and Frank Lampard. But he won't be lacking in poten-

Against France, the manager

fielded Dier and Alli.

If everybody had been fit, they almost certainly wouldn't have played. In fact, they probably wouldn't have made the squad.

Dier has played less than 40 Premier League games for Tottenham since Pochettino brought him back to England in the summer of 2014.

Born in Cheltenham, Dier was brought up in Portugal and could have played for that country at international level.

Instead, he chose the country of his birth and was rewarded with a senior debut against Spain last Friday week.

Alli has even less Premier League experience – just 11 appearances.

And all those have come this season!

Pochettino splashed out £5m in the January transfer market to sign the midfielder from MK Dons, though Alli was allowed to complete the season with the Buckinghamshire club.

He had first appeared for the

He had first appeared for the Dons as a 16-year-old in 2012, and scored 16 goals to help the club to promotion from the third tier last term.

In only his second full England appearance, Alli scored a spectacular goal against the French and gave Hodgson food for thought.

Not only was his finish impressive, but also the way he slid in to tackle ex-Saint Morgan Schneiderlin to win the ball in the first place, prior to quickly getting up and receiving Wayne Rooney's pass en route to scoring.

Creatively, Ross Barkely won his

Creatively, Ross Barkely won his 19th cap against the French while ex-Saint Adam Lallana collected his 19th after coming on as a second half substitute.

Both are shoe-ins for the Euro 2016 squad, but it is the Everton player who has impressed more so far

But don't forget Hodgson was without the likes of Liverpool pair Jordan Henderson and James Milner for the last two friendlies, while Jack Wilshere was another injury-enforced absentee.

Out wide, ex-Saints pair Theo Walcott and Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain were two others missing through injury.

through injury.

And up front, Hodgson was without Daniel Sturridge, Danny Welbeck, Jamie Vardy and Danny Ings
– again, all injured.

As a result, Harry Kane started as the lone striker with Rooney in a roving role behind him.

Kane has shown he can score at international level, though none of his three goals have come against a major nation.

You would imagine, though, that the greater pace of Sturridge would be preferred – providing the Liverpool man is fit. And, given his recent record, there is no guarantee he will be.

After all, Sturridge has only played three league games for his club this season, and he only managed 19 outings in the whole of 2014/15.

Welbeck's record for England is impressive – 14 goals in just 33 appearances – but he is another with a questionable fitness record.

He hasn't played at all for Arsenal in 2015/16 yet as he continues to recover from a knee injury.

Eddie Jones is England's new coach

EDDIE Jones has been appointed as England's first overseas head coach. Here, the Sports Pink looks at five lesser-known things about the 55-yearold Australian.

Jones' old school

Jones attended Matraville High School in the south-eastern Sydney suburb of Chifley.

suburb of Chifley.
His fellow former pupils include Bob
Carr, who was New South Wales
Premier between 1995 and 2005, in
addition to the international rugbyplaying Ella brothers – Mark, Glen and
Gary.

Ace of clubs

Jones played as a hooker for Sydneybased rugby club Randwick, who are nicknamed the Galloping Greens.

The club can display an illustrious roll of honour, with Australia international stars who passed through their ranks including Ken Catchpole, David Campese, George Gregan, Matt Giteau and Kurtley Beale.

Coaching globetrotter

Jones' 21-year coaching career has seen him work in four different countries – Australia, England, Japan



New England head coach Eddie

and South Africa – holding head coach's roles with the Wallabies, Japan and now England.

Other ports of call include Tokai University in Tokyo, the Canberra-based Brumbies, Queensland Reds and Saracens.

Red Rose thorn

Jones coached Australia in 57 Test matches, which included Tri-Nations tile success and reaching the 2003 World Cup final, and his lowest win-ratio was against England.

The Wallabies lost five times to England from seven starts under Jones – a 29 per cent success rate – compared to 33 per cent against South Africa and 45 per cent against New Zealand.

Pep talk

Jones has always been a fan of tapping into other sports for knowledge and advice, and preparations for Japan's successful 2015 Rugby World Cup campaign proved no exception. Jones spent time with Bayern Munich

Jones spent time with Bayern Munich boss and former Barcelona manager Pep Guardiola, and he said: "He is the best soccer coach in the world, and you always want to learn from the best."

Non league FOOTBALL



Youngsters hopeful of firstteam chances under Todd

IT'S been the best part of decade since a young, homegrown player signed professional forms for Eastleigh.

Not since the days of Aaron Martin, who left for Saints in 2009, and Will Aimson, now of Hull City, have the Spitfires had much to crow about on the player development front, writes Wendy Gee.

But speaking to teenage striker Tony Lee, you get the feeling that the appointment of a young manager in 34-year-old Chris Todd has sent a wind of change blowing through the club, stirring a ripple of hope in the vouth ranks.

When the 19-year-old from Shirley, Southampton, put pen to paper on a year's contrast last week it was not only a thrill for the young man himself but a sign that the club's scholarship scheme, which combines football with an education programme, is beginning to bear fruit.

"I'm still studying at the moment, finishing the third year of the Eastleigh scholarship scheme, and being part of that has given me more time to get my foot in the door and hopefully get a contract, which I've done,

he said.
"The contract came out of nowhere, but when the new manager took over I knew there would be opportunities.

'The previous manager (Richard Hill) had his way of doing things which worked well, but I think the club needed a new look and having a younger manager with fresh ideas has worked.

"Chris Todd knows the quality of youth players we've got and it's given us the chance to try and step up into the first team.

'Those first-team opportunities are quite thin at the moment, but I've been dropped in to play for Lee Peacock's under-21s and we've had two games so far."

Born in Southampton and educated at Regents Park and Upper Shirley High, Lee spent around three years in Nuneaton after leaving primary school but came back at weekends to play on Sundays for Pace Panthers in the Tyro League.

He joined Eastleigh as an under-15 and, once Saturday football kicked in, it spelt the end of his trips to St

Mary's.
"I was a massive Saints fan but when I started playing on a Saturday that killed it," he said. "I'd play on a Saturday morning and then watch

"Dan Wright, who managed East-leigh's academy at the time, helped me a lot and Lee Peacock's been a massive help these last few years, getting me through day in day out.

'I'm grateful too to Richard Hill for giving me my chance last year and for keeping me at the club and since Chris took over he has been superb.

"Chris's man-management is spot on. If you've got problem you can always knock on his door.



Tony Lee signs a pro contract for Eastleigh.



The Spitfires' senior pros rank equally highly in young Lee's estima-

You sometimes get one or two unhelpful players at clubs, but every Eastleigh player is as good as each other," he said.

"The forwards - James Constable, Jack Midson, Yemi Odubade, Ross Lafayette, Jai Reason – are all older than me and they help me day-to-day in training. If I'm struggling with something they'll give me advice to help me perform better.

"I train every time they do and I've not got a bad word to say about any of them. They're helpful and they're up for a laugh too.
"I couldn't think of a better Confer-

ence club to be at.'

While mixing with former Football League players on a daily basis can only be a positive, the down side is that they pose a formidable barrier to young players breaking into the first team.

Lee, though, is up for the challenge "The players I've got in front of me mean chances are limited, but they've all had good careers, whereas I'm only 19 and I've got a few years on them. Hopefully I'll get my chance, not because of injuries, but by work ing hard on the training pitch," he said

"I do understand that managers can't take risks (when points are at stake). Hopefully it wasn't my fault, but last season I went on when we were 2-1 up at Dartford and we ended

up conceding in the last five minutes. "Maybe I'll speak to Constable, Jack and Yemi about scoring early and then I can go on and give them a bit of a breather!" he smiled.

The other option short-term would be for Lee to go out on loan again fol-lowing successful stints with Lymington Town and Tiverton last season and Dorchester and AFC Totton this term

"Hopefully the next move's into the Conference South," he said. "Clubs like Havant and Gosport are

relatively close and I'm sure Chris will put me out on loan if he thinks the time's right.

Lee exit a frustration

AFC TOTTON boss Steve Hollick had mixed emotions when he heard goal-getting loanee Tony Lee would be signing professional forms for his parent club Eastleigh.

couldn't help but feel frustrated that the Stags had gone back to square one in their efforts to find a replacement for last year's leading scorer Craig Feeney who recently moved to Australia writes WENDY

On the other, he could only stand and admire the 19-yearold striker's determination to land himself a contract at the

area's top non-league club.
"I tried to sign Tony in preseason, but he turned me down to stay at Eastleigh.

"He wanted to give it a good go there and he's worked extremely hard to get this contract," said Hollick.

"Tony's is a really good story about a young player showing perseverance and believing in himself.

"He's a good lad, really down to earth, and I'm chuffed to bits for him that he's signed pro forms for Eastleigh.

Destined

"I knew Chris (Todd, Eastleigh manager) really liked him and it's great for the lad that he's gone back there full-time."

Lee's six goals in three games for Totton - combined with four in ten minutes for Eastleigh's under-21 side can only have helped his cause in persuading the Spitfires to take him on.

And much as Hollick would like to think Lee could help the Stags out again one day. he is convinced the young, Shirley-based hot-shot is destined to go higher.

"When Tony joined us on loan I thought I'd solved our striker problem," he said.

"But I know Chris absolutely rates him and, if he does go back out on loan again, he'll go much higher than the Southern One South



Totton boss Steve Hollick

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Non league FOOTBALL





Jack Smith

Eastleigh defender Smith joins Bath City on Ioan

EASTLEIGH defender Jack Smith has joined National League South outfit Bath City on loan.

The centre-back has yet to make a National League appearance for Chris Todd's side, but has been on loan down the non-League pyramid with Fleet Town, Abington Town and Wantage.

More recently he has been playing for Brockenhurst in the Sydenhams Premier and was part of the Badgers side that reached the third qualifying round of the FA Cup Smith will help cover for an injury to Bath's Sekani Simpson, who has been battling hamstring problems.

Todd said: "Jack's been playing Wessex level or thereabouts for a number of seasons now. It's about time he got the next step.

"He went on for about 35 minutes for Bath (against Margate) the other night and put in a good shift."

● IAN Saunders did not get the happy homecoming he had been hoping for with Petersfield Town.

After five weeks away with the Army in America, Rams boss Saunders took a back-seat role for his first game back. But his side lost 2-0 at Kings Langley in the Southern Division One Central.

"Since I have been away the team have shown some good form, so it was disappointing to lose my first game back," he said.

Kings Langley struck twice in six firsthalf minutes before former Winchester City man Alek Przespolewski was denied by a goal line clearance.

Fennemore: I could not turn down Winchester City

New dad playing again after eightmonth sabbatical

AFTER trading in his love of football for the love of a family life, Lewis Fennemore wasn't overly fussed about playing again.

But when Winchester City came calling, the towering midfielder – an FA Vase winner with Sholing less than two years ago – decided to give it one last shot, writes Wendy Gee.

Having started last season with Sholing in the wake of their Wembley triumph, Portsmouth-based Fennemore was dogged with back problems and decided to move closer to home with Sydenhams Premier outfit Moneyfields. But he never truly enjoyed his stay at Dover Road and drifted away when his personal life took over.

"I haven't played for eight months because of family commitments," he said. "We bought a house and our first baby, Carter, was born on July

31.
"I didn't really enjoy it at Moneyfields, so I needed a fair bit of persuading to start playing again. But Winchester are a hell of a good team and I'm going to give it one more go.

"I've played with (fellow Winchester midfielder) Jamie Barron before at Follands and there are other players here that I've played against more than enough times to know how good they are.

"Winchester play football the right way and that's one of the main reasons I'm here."

The 30-year-old from North End still has a special place in his heart for Sholing.

Like every other member of the Boatmen's class of 2013/14, he will always cherish memories of that magical 1-0 Wembley win over West Auckland Town.

"I missed Sholing massively after leaving them and didn't think I'd ever play for anyone else," he said. "I started last season there, but I got



Lewis Fennemore in FA Vase final action for Sholing in 2014.

injured, I was travelling, and it just wasn't the same. I had trouble with my back and that was one of the reasons I gave up.

"But my back feels okay at the moment. Perhaps it's benefitted from eight months' rest – I hope so!"

Fennemore's arrival has coincided

with City midfielder Micky Hubbard signing Sydenhams forms for Lymington Town.

Director of football Dave Malone said: "Last year Micky was really good in the Wessex League but, for some reason, he hasn't hit the same levels this year. He's not been consistent enough to hold a place down, but he's too good to be sitting on the bench

"Lewis is miles off full fitness, but I've always liked him as a player. We need someone like him with a bit of size and aggression, otherwise teams in this league will batter you."

Gamble's recovery

INJURED hotshot Mark Gamble was set to test his powers of recovery this week as he bids to make a welcome return to the Wimborne Town ranks in the near future.

The 29-year-old striker, under contract until the end of the season, feared his campaign could have been over after displacing two bones in his foot and suffering ankle ligament damage against Weymouth a month ago, writes Andy Mitchell.

His setback typified a tumultuous spell for the Cuthbury club with boss Steve Cuss resigning last week.

And the board slashing the playing budget by more than 40 per cent on the back of their struggles in Southern South & West

But Gamble, who has 11 goals in 14 appearances in all competitions this season, could be about to give the incoming manager a timely boost by targeting a return to full training within a month – provided he comes through his first tentative run unscathed.

Walking fine

"I'm walking fine and driving now, which is great." he said.

now, which is great," he said.
"When I last spoke to the
ankle surgeon, he said I
would need an operation to
get rid of all the excess bone
and things like that, but the
immediate concern was over
the ligaments.

"But I have been doing exercises, bending my ankle here, there and everywhere and now I'm itching to get back running to see how it holds up.

"I know I will need surgery in the future, but if I can manage it well enough to get through the season then it would be great.

"It's a bit of a waiting game but I hope to find out in another week or so.

"I would like to be back in full training by mid-December so I can get back in the swing of it.

"I'm going to start running this week to see what it's like, so we'll just have to take it from there."



Mark Gamble

Non league FOOTBALL





Sam Griffin

Griffin scores and creates in Cup win for Bemerton

NEWCOMER Sam Griffin made an instant impact for Bemerton Heath Harlequins in their 2-0 Sydenhams League Cup second round win over foes Downton.

ton.
Griffin, signed from Southern One
South & West outfit Wimborne Town,
contributed one assist and one goal to
book a home third-round tie at home to
Andover Town.

Before Griffin weaved his magic in the final third, Bemerton were awarded a penalty inside the opening five minutes

at Western Way.

Tom Jeffes was impeded in the area and clubman Graham Mankin stepped up from 12 yards, but his tame effort was gathered by Robins keeper Charlie Aldridge.

Bemerton continued to press, but it was 70 minutes before the eventual opener came.

The ever-impressive Griffin sent in a corner which Mankin headed goalwards and Will Robinson was on hand to flick the ball into the roof of the net. The hosts doubled their cushion ten minutes later as Griffin was rewarded for his efforts with an unstoppable strike.

Harlequins boss Graham Kemp, who has been reunited with Griffin following their days together at Christchurch, said: "We completely controlled the game and it was a good win.

"The clean sheet was nice as we've conceded a lot of goals recently and we could've won by a lot more as their 'keeper made some good saves."

Diaper hopes to have Castle playing for Sholing again

Defender raises hopes with his Hamble cameo

SHOLING manager Dave Diaper has not given up all hope of seeing FA Vase-winning defender Pete Castle back in the red-and-white stripes.

After struggling through a catalogue of injuries, the 28-year-old was seriously contemplating hanging up his boots, writes Wendy Gee.

But the football bug has bitten again and last Saturday he scored twice for Hamble Club as they powered back to the top of the Hampshire Premier League with a 5-0 win at lowly Colden Common.

Castle's appearance for Hamble Club, the reigning HPL champions, came as no surprise to Diaper who had been kept fully in the picture by the centre-back.

"Out of respect, Pete phoned me up four weeks ago to say he had had a word with the specialist and been enticed to get back playing again," he said.

Proud player

"Because he's such a proud player, he mentioned it to me because he didn't want me hearing through anyone else.

"With us playing in the Southern League and now the Wessex League, his body was under stress and he was picking up a lot of injuries.

"But he seems to think he can get away with it more at that (Hampshire) level and if he comes through four, six or eight weeks injury-free he may get back in touch with me.

"Even if he doesn't, it's just great to see Pete playing again.

"No one deserves to have their career cut short like that."

One of the most decorated players on the local non-League circuit, Castle won the Southern One South & West title with Bashley in 2006/07 and was a key cog in Sholing's FA



Pete Castle in action for Sholing.

Vase/Sydenhams Premier doublewinning side of 2013/14.

He was also the youngest player ever to have featured for Reading's first team at the age of 16 years and 49 days back in the 2002/03 season.

Injuries have taken their toll in recent years, however, and, having had surgery to overcome a knee problem, Castle has most recently had trouble with his hip.

"Pete's had so many comebacks from injury and I'm just grateful he rang me, he didn't have to.

"I just told him to go for it," said Diaper.

"Our door's always open if he wants to come back to Sholing just as it is for any of our former players. I'm always on the end of a phone." Alex Sawyer, voted Sholing supporters' player-of-the-season for 2014/15, is ready for action again after a spell out with shin splints.

But news is not so good of fellow midfielder Dan Dove.

The on-contract youngster has had a couple of spells out with knee trouble and it looks as if he may need an operation

Two goals for Wood

EMERGING sharpshooter Joe Wood netted twice as Verwood put an end to Lymington Town's Sydenhams League Cup hopes at Potterne Park.

Wood struck a goal in each half to help the Potters to a comfortable 3-0 second round victory. The big striker opened the

The big striker opened the scoring in the seventh minute and Verwood doubled their lead five minutes into the second period when Charlie Gajic claimed the final touch amid a goalmouth scramble.

Wood, a former Fawley forward, wrapped up victory with nine minutes remaining, taking his season's tally to 12.

Christchurch exited the SWL Cup in heartbreaking fashion, losing to a late extratime winner at Amesbury.

The all-Sydenhams One clash finished 0-0 after 90 minutes and it was in-form marksman Danny Finnigan who plundered the Blues' decider with the aid of a deflection.

Amesbury had five players booked in the feisty encounter.

That came on top of six yellows picked up in their 3-2 league win at Totton & Eling four days earlier.

The club's own match report admitted: "This needs addressing as suspensions will jeopardise their chances of winning trophies."

Amesbury will entertain Salisbury in a Wiltshire derby if Steve Claridge's men get through their delayed second round tie against Fleet Spurs on December 1.

Verwood's reward for knocking out Lymington is a tough trip to Dave Diaper's Sholing, who disposed of Laverstock 5-0 through Dan Mason (2), Byron Mason, Dougie Rowe and super sub Nick Yeomans.

Sydenhams League Cup, third round draw: Amesbury Town v Salisbury or Fleet Spurs, Whitchurch or Newport IoW v AFC Stoneham or Ringwood, Sholing v Verwood, Moneyfields v Portland Utd, Cowes v Brockenhurst, Bernerton HH v Andover Town, Team Solent or US Portsmouth v Fareham Town or Alton Town, Romsey Town v Totton & Eling or Fawley AFC.



Danny Finnigan

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Non league FOOTBALL





Basker scores two goals during impressive debut

GIVEN his background, it was no great surprise when Harlan Basker scored twice on his Winchester City debut against AFC Totton in the Red Insure

Goals were never far away when the 19-year-old from Morden, Surrey, was getting his football education with AFC

In one season he scored 28 goals for the youth, under-21s and first-team combined and picked up theLeague Football Education goal-of-the-month award.

Basker was eventually released by Wimbledon when they brought in strapping striker Adebayo Akinfenwa

"I didn't leave there on bad terms. said Basker, who now combines his football with work as a personal trainer.

In all the teenager made 21 first-team appearances for the Dons and learned lot from training with the seniors among them Eastleigh frontman Jack Midson.

"I used to train up with the first-team and, playing in the same position as me,

Jack helped me," he said. "We'd have a general chat in the chang ing room.

There are nice players and some horrible ones and he was one of the nice

Wiltshire said: "A friend of mine, David Johnson, recommended him. David played for Watford in the John Barnes era and is now an agent.

'Harlan played against Totton and he suits our style of play. He's quick and he scores goals.

Tom's card frustration

POOLE Town boss Tom Killick defended his team's disciplinary record and insisted yellow cards were handed out more readily in the modern game.

Jamie Whisken was suspended for today's home clash with St Neots in the Southern Premier Division, while Will Spetch, Michael Walker and Steve Devlin are all close to one-match bans. But Killick said: "I don't

think our discipline is any worse than a lot of other

teams.
"It's just that at this stage of the season, defenders and your more competitive players are making lots of tackles and what constitutes a caution nowadays is a lot less significant than it used to

"There are probably an awful lot of players up and down the league that are either serving suspensions or getting close to them. It just goes with the territory.

THE draw for the FA Trophy third qualifying round has thrown up a Hampshire derby.

Havant & Waterlooville will host Basingstoke Town in an all-National League South clash on November 28.

Both teams are at the wrong end of the table, with Basingstoke currently carrying the weight of the entire division on their

Lee Bradbury's Havant are 16th, but have been buoyed by back-to-back 3-1 league victories over Oxford City and

Maidenhead United. Basingstoke, beaten 5-0 at Concord Rangers and 2-0 at Truro City this week, have signed 27-year-old striker Guiseppe Sole on a month's loan from Woking.

Alex Pike's Gosport Borough, Trophy finalists in 2014, have been drawn away to Cirencester Town of the Evo-Stik Southern Premier.

their ticket to the third qualifying round by beating Tonbridge Angels 2-1 in Kent last Saturday – on-loan Cheltenham winger Zack Kotwica hitting a brace.

Jason Matthews' Weymouth face a tough Trophy test at National League South side Hemel Hempstead Town



Jamie Whisken

Prolific Bentley would relish a chance to move up ladder

Star striker has netted 32 goals this campaign

HE HAS an uncanny knack of scoring goals in senior football - 32 already this season after an astonishing 114 the previous two years.

And Winchester City striker Warren Bentley would relish the chance to move up the ladder, writes Ken

At 25, the PE teacher is the same age Jamie Vardy was when he broke into the big league at Leicester City. Now, three years on, Vardy is playing for England.

Bentley said: "I am no different from anyone else. I would like to play as high as I can. This is the highest level I have played at.

"I am not sure where this leads to in the future. The people here know I am ambitious. There was interest from Gosport Borough but it was a difficult one

The club were not happy with the offer. So I told them if they were not happy with it, I am happy to stay where I am.

"The team has a lot of potential as we have shown in the last month. I am among friends and it is a pleasure to play each week with these guys. I am not really one to try and force a

Bentley banged in 56 goals last season as Winchester stepped up from the Wessex League, following 58 for Alresford the previous year after graduating from University. There he was more interested in grades than

Despite moving up a level, in pre-season he set himself a tally of 35-40, which he admits he might have to re-

Bentley said: "I have set my standards high but it is not always about me scoring, it's how I contribute to the team. I am more concerned about my all-round play than anything

Winchester manager Paul Masters knows a good striker when he sees one - he is Alan Shearer's brother-in-



Winchester's prolific Warren Bentley

law - and believes Bentley "can get

goals at any level". He added: "I have heard it said that Warren is too old at 25 or too slight. That is nonsense on both counts. The lad is a late developer.

"He is an intelligent footballer, a team player, who is also getting better and better.

"We want him to stay, of course, but there is an agreement in place that he can leave if there is an agreement with all parties.

 JOHN Pyatt's Lymington Town have won the Sydenhams Premier club-of-the-month award for October.

Highlights of the month included a 4-2 league win over Sholing and FA Vase successes over Oldland Abbotonians and Wells City.

Tadley Calleva took the Division One honours, having also made it through to today's FA Vase second

Non league FOOTBALL





Steve 'Taffy' Richardson

Eight in competition for manager's job at Wimborne

FA Vase-winner Taffy Richardson is among eight candidates vying for the Wimborne Town manager's job, chairman Ken Stewart has confirmed.

Poole Town number two James Wood and former Dorchester Town bosses Phil Simkin and Ashley Vickers have thrown their hats in the ring, while ex-Verwood manager Carl Poore is understood to have put himself forward for the assistant-manager's role should Simon Browne enter the running.

The Magpies board were planning to draw up a shortlist of three yesterday with interviews next week.

Richardson played a crucial part in Wimborne's Wembley triumph back in 1992 – he also managed Salisbury more than a decade ago.

Former Poppies boss Wood has been Tom Killick's right-hand man for the past four seasons, while ex-Blackfield boss Vickers and Simkin have been touted for various positions during their respective stints out of the spotlight.

Poore began his managerial career at Cranborne but quit Verwood at the start of this season due to increased personal commitments. Ex-Hamworthy United boss Browne is working with Dorchester Town reserves at the moment but is thought be keen on a return to the sen-

Ex-Poole boss Brian O'Donnell, currently technical director at Dorchester, is also rumoured to have applied. Stewart told The Pink's sister paper The Bournemouth Daily Echo: "We have received eight applications so far from a host of people. We will get into the interviews next week

"I can't speak for the board until we get together but I imagine us getting it down to three before the interview pro-

The flurry of interest comes despite the board announcing it needs to slash Wimborne's playing budget from £1,750 to £1,000 per week but Stewart is not surprised at the calibre of candidates

"Wimborne is a nice club to manage We don't go firing people willy nilly, so it's a good place to come in and build something," he said.
"I think anyone who knows the club

would want to manage it.

pacesetters Salisbury have added two new names to their squad to bolster them for a packed programme

Following successful trials, wideman Taurean Roberts and midfielder Harry Wedlake have been welcomed into the Old Sarum fold.

Salisbury

additions

SYDENHAM'S Premier

Roberts first impressed in a friendly against Chichester City and, although Wedlake was injured in that game, he still did enough then, and in training since, to convince manager Steve Claridge that he would bring extra quality to the squad.

Londoner Roberts, 24, went through the Crystal Palace academy before being released five years ago and joining Tooting & Mitcham in the Ryman League.

From there he moved to Merstham, helping the Surrey side gain promotion from the Ryman South, and more recently he has been with Met Police in the Ryman Premier.

Excite

"Taurean has the ability to go past players and excite crowds," said Claridge.

"But what I also like about him is the little bit of nous he has, having learned the game properly at a pro club.

"His starting positions are

good and he gets himself into the right areas when we don't have the ball, so he is able to do a job and defend as well."

Wedlake, just 19, was with Portsmouth as a scholar before joining Vanarama National League South side Havant & Waterlooville.

He had a loan spell with Staines and also featured for Petersfield Town.

He was not getting regular football back at Havant and Claridge was delighted when the Hawks agreed to release

"His is very strong and mobile and will give us a lot of good competition in midfield," said Claridge.

"These are two good players and they join us just the right time with so many games - and big games coming up, including a busy pre-Christmas programme



Taurean Roberts

Ex-manager Cuss denies his players had 'let him down'

Former boss says Magpies squad were 'fantastic'

FORMER manager Cuss denied he had felt let down by his Wimborne Town players and insisted the commitment of the Magpies squad had been "fantastic".

Cuss's four-and-a-half year spell at Cuthbury ended earlier this month when the board formally accepted his resignation following a poor run of Southern One South & West results.

Magpies chairman Ken Stewart had previously stated that Cuss felt the players had "let him down massively" but the former boss explained that was not the case.

"I would never be critical of that group of players," he insisted. "They have been absolutely fantastic for me and have always given the most effort they could.

"The commitment they have shown towards me and the football club has been fantastic.

"We have sustained Southern League football and that is an achievement that shouldn't be underestimated because a lot of the players have stepped up from the Wessex

"I've never felt let down by that group of players. They have to make a huge commitment as they all have families and jobs and they have to fit football in as well.

"I've learned to understand that during my time in charge and I can only thank them.'

Cuss remains a club director and will still be involved to some extent, but first he needs a break.

T've always taken a keen interest in how the club develops off the pitch and there are certain projects, such



Former Wimborne manager Steve Cuss.

as in the youth section, that I'm committed to and will remain supportive of," he said.

"But right now I'm going to give myself a little bit of a break. More than anything, I need to re-energise and work out what steps I want to

Loyal servant Paul Roast and respected coach John Macey agreed to temporarily hold the fort following Cuss's resignation and enjoyed instant success last Saturday with a 3-1 league win at Yate Town.

Roast, however, insists he has "no interest whatsoever" in becoming Cuss's permanent successor. "I am more than happy to help out for a few games and that is what I have told the board," he said. "It just isn't for me

long-term because I can't commit to it. Even in the past few days I have been blown away by how much of your time it takes up.

"You are always on the phone speaking to people or texting and it would be too much for me to take

Winger Sam Griffin has left the Magpies to join Bemerton Heath.

Saturday, November 21, 2015 **DAILY ECHO**

Non league FOOTBALL





Former Saint White is back on the ball for Borough

EX-SAINT Jamie White has returned to Gosport Borough following the end of his loan spell at Southern Premier outfit Poole Town

The 25-year-old striker from Harefield, Southampton, had been with the Dolphins for a month, but Poole boss Tom Killick cited financial reasons for not extending the deal, writes Wendy Gee.

"It's not really affordable for us going forward," said Killick.

"Jamie is a top lad and I hope he gets back to full fitness and form.

White overcame a succession of injuries to jointly win the Conference South Golden Boot Award with 25 league goals

for Salisbury City in 2012/13.

After short stays with Bristol Rovers and Sutton United, he joined Gosport during the summer and, although he has so far struggled to make an impact, manager Alex Pike still believes in him.

"Jamie White firing on all cylinders is just as good as (Borough's record goalscorer) Justin Bennett," he said.

"He's been training with us on Thurs-

days while he has been at Poole, so it's not as if we haven't seen Jamie.

Bennett added yet another goal to his tally last Saturday as his 75th-minute penalty settled a rain-drenched National League South encounter 1-0 against Weston-super-Mare at Privett Park Borough's first league victory in six.

Even Pike admitted that the alleged handball offence looked "a bit harsh", but Bennett showed Weston no mercy as he netted his 19th goal of another pro-

May stars for Gosport

FORMER Southampton Schools lad Adam May impressed for Gosport Borough in their National League win against Weston last weekend.

The on-loan Portsmouth midfielder, a former Bitterne Park pupil, caught the eye for Borough playing in an unfamiliar wide role.

A mere 17 years old, May

only signed professional forms at Fratton Park in August. He had already made his first-team debut in April in a League Two game against

"It's nice that people saw the best of him," said Gosport boss Alex Pike.

Sorry

"I felt sorry for the lad in that he was thrown in at the deep end against Hemel (a 6-2 home defeat) and he must have been shell-shocked and wondered what had gone on.

"I don't think he knew he could play wide, but he got some quality balls into the box, had a mature head on towards the end and helped kill the game off.

"He set things up, never gave the ball away and it bodes well if he can play like

Gosport, FA Trophy finalists in 2014, will start this season's campaign away to Cirencester Town of the Southern Premier Division on Saturday, November 28.

 HOLDERS Team Solent beat QK Southampton 5-1 at Testwood Park on Monday round of the Southampton Senior Cup.

The Southampton Solent University side bounced back well from Friday's 6-0 Sydenhams Premier caning by league leaders Salisbury as goals from Jim Orvis, Martin Johnson (2), Jesse Waller-Lassen and Jemal Wiseman eased them through.
QK, who play two tiers down

in the Hampshire Premier League, pulled a goal back through Jack Betteridge and their goalkeeper Gary Morrison made some smart saves, including a closerange tip-over to deny Waller-



Adam May

Young forward is labelled as 'exceptional' by his manager

Roberts' brace help to fire Poole back to the top

LUKE Roberts, a product of the AFC Totton youth system, has been paid the ultimate compliment by Poole Town boss Tom Killick.

The young forward was labelled an "exceptional player" by his manager after firing the Dolphins back to the Southern Premier summit with a brace against Cambridge City last Saturday, writes Wendy Gee.

Roberts got off the mark after 17 minutes, latching onto Mar-vin Brooks' flick-on from Jamie Whisken's cross

Michael Malcolm levelled for the visitors after an hour before Roberts tapped in the winner from Luke Burbidge's delivery 12 minutes later.

Killick, who signed Roberts on the back of his player-of-the-season cam-paign for AFC Totton in 2013/14, said: "I just think he's an exceptional play-Certain players think, perhaps, they're a little better than they are and you have to keep their feet on the

"There are other players that perhaps don't realise how good they are. I've got so much time for Luke, I've got so much faith in his ability and the players love him to bits.

They know how good he is and it's just a question of him retaining his confidence. He can achieve big things for us and he's someone that can play at a better level. He's improving all the time.'

Having risen through the ranks at AFC Totton, Roberts was rewarded with his first Stags contract in Octo-

He went on to shine as a beacon of hope for the Testwood Park club during some troubled times which saw many senior stars depart.

Reflecting on his two-goal show for Poole, Roberts said: "Being an attacking player, your main aim is to get vourself on the scoresheet and I was delighted to get two.



Luke Roberts, left, in action for Poole.

"We dominated possession in the first half and I probably should have had one or two more goals, but the main thing is we won.

"I will work on my shooting and areas that need improvement so, hopefully, I will take those chances in the next game.

It turned out to be a memorable afternoon all round for the Roberts family with older brother Adam striking an 82nd-minute winner for Southern One South & West promotion seekers Winchester City.

With just eight minutes of normal time remaining and the score poised

at 1-1 against Shortwood, Roberts hung up a cross from the right byline – and the ball got caught in the swirling wind and carried over the 'keep er and under the bar.

Poole moved four points clear on Tuesday with a 1-0 win at Chippenham courtesy of Jack Dickson.

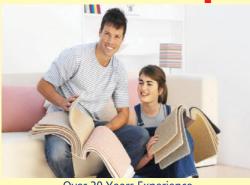




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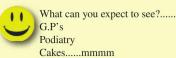
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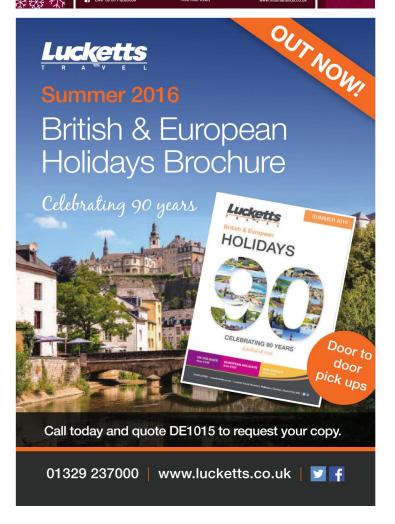
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If there is more than one winner the jackpot will be shared and, similarly, if there is more than one runner-up the nearest miss prize will also be shared.

RESULTS



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Thursday 9am 2015

Names of vinners will be published on Saturday, 28 November, 29 November,

2015

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- K Dawkins, Southampton, Hants J Edwards, Southampton, Hants
- J Franklin, North Baddesley, Hants M Fudge, Botley, Hants G Geary, Southampton, Hants
- W Keens, Winchester, Hants
- N McDonald, Southampton, Hants
- R Nias, Eastleigh, Hants S Oldfield, Winchester, Hants
- A Smith, Chandlers Ford, Hants
- D Sparshott, Southampton, Hants
- K Springall, Southampton, Hants I Stephens, Southampton, Hants
- P Street, Southampton, Hants
- V Wargent, Eastleigh, Hants
- B Weavers, Southampton, Hants

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Daily Echo

Saturday, November 21, 2015 DAILY ECHO 23

CHERRIES, POMPEY, EASTLEIGH, WINCHESTER AND TOTTON STATISTICS

CHERRIES 2015/16 Premier League
Aug 8 Aston Villa (H) L 0-1
Aug 17 Liverpool (A)L0-1
Aug 22 West Ham (A)
Wilson 3, Pugh
Aug 25 Hartlepool (LC 2nd rd, A)W 4-0
Kermorgant, Gosling, Stanislas 2
Aug 29 Leicester (H) D 1-1
Wilson
Sept 12 Norwich City (A) 1-3
Cook
Sept 19 Sunderland (H)
Wilson Ritchie
Sept 22 Preston (LC 3rd rd, A) D 2-2
Pugh, McDonald
Won 3-2 on penalties
Sept 26 Stoke City (A L 2-1
Gosling
Oct 3 Watford (H) D 1-1
Murray
Oct 17 Manchester City (A) L 1-5
Murray
Oct 25 Tottenham Hotspur (H)L 1-5
Ritchie
Oct 28 Liverpool (LC 4th rd)L 0-1
Nov 1 Southampton (A)L 0-2
Nov 7 Newcastle United (H) L 0-1
Nov 21 Swansea City A
Nov 28 Everton H
Dec 5 ChelseaA
Dec 12 Manchester United H
Dec 19 West Bromwich AlbionA
Dec 26 Crystal Palace H
Dec 28 ArsenalH
Jan 2 Leicester A
Jan 12 West Ham United H
Jan 16 Norwich City H
Jan 23 Sunderland A
Feb 2 Crystal Palace A
Feb 6 Arsenal A
Feb 13 Stoke City H
Feb 27 WatfordA
Mar 1 Southampton H
Mar 5 Newcastle United A
Mar 12 Swansea City H
Mar 19 Tottenham Hotspur A
April 2 Manchester City H
April 9 Aston Villa A
April 16 Liverpool H
April 23 Chelsea H
April 30 EvertonA
May 7 West Bromwich Albion H
May 15 Manchester United A

POMPEY 2015/16 League 2

Aug 8 Dag & Red (H) W 3-0
Bennett 2, Evans
Aug 12 Derby (LC 1st , H) W 2-1
McGurk, Chaplin
Aug 15 Plymouth (A) W 2-1
Tubbs, Roberts
Aug 18 Crawley (A) D 0-0
Aug 22 Morecambe (H) D 3-3
Roberts 2 Stockley
Aug 25 Reading (LC 2nd, H) L 1-2
Chaplin
Aug 29 Luton (A) W 2-1
Evans, Tubbs Sept 1 Exeter (FLT, A)L 0-2
Sept 5 Accrington (H)
Sept 12 Barnet (H) W 3-1
Chaplin 2 McGurk
Sept 19 Oxford Utd (A) D 1-1
McGurk
Sept 26 Bristol Rovers (A) W 2-1
Evans Stockley
Sept 29 Exeter (H) L 1-2
Roberts
Oct 3 Yeovil (H) D 0-0
Oct 10 Cambridge Utd (A) W 3-1
Tubbs 3
Oct 17 Newport County (A) W 1-0
Tubbs
Oct 20 Stevenage (H) D 1-1
Chaplin
Oct 24 Mansfield (H) D 0-0
Oct 31 Notts County. (A) L 1-2
Lavery
Nov 7 Macclesfield (FAC1, H)W 2-1
McGurk 2
Nov 14 Wimbledon (H) D 0-0
Nov 21 CarlisleA
Nov 24 York CityH
Nov 28 Wycombe A
Dec 12 Hartlepool H
Dec 19 Northampton
Dec 26 Leyton Orient A
Dec 28 Luton H
Jan 2 Crawley
Jan 9 Morecambe A
Jan 16 Accrington A
Jan 23 Oxford Utd H Jan 30 Barnet A
Feb 6 Leyton Orient
Feb 13 Bristol Rovers
Feb 20 YeovilA
Feb 27 Cambridge Utd
Mar 1 Exeter A
Mar 5 StevenageA
Mar 12 Newport County H Mar 19 Mansfield A
Mar 25 Notts County H
Mar 28 Wimbledon A
Mar 28 Wimbledon A Apr 2 Carlisle H Apr 9 Dag & Red A
Mar 28 Wimbledon
Mar 28 Wimbledon A Apr 2 Carlisle H Apr 9 Dag & Red A

EASTLEIGH 2015/16 Conference National

Aug 8 Southport (A) W 4-0
Reason, Turley, Strevens, Constable
Aug 11 Boreham Wood (H)W 1-0
Constable
Aug 15 Lincoln (H) D 1-1
Constable
Aug 18 Welling (A) D 2-2
Constable Strevens
Aug 22 Macclesfield (H) W 1-0
Lafayette
Aug 29 Aldershot (A)
Constable Cook
Aug 31 Torquay (H)
Odubade, Cook, Payne
Sept 5 Barrow (A)L 0-1
Sept 12 Gateshead (H) L 1-2
Own Goal
Sept 15 Altrincham (A) D 1-1
Odubade
Sept 19 Chester (A) L 0-1
Sept 22 Dover (H) L 2-5
Lafayette Cook
Sept 26 Wrexham (A)
Reason Drury Strevens
Oct 3 Braintree (H) L 0-2
Oct 10 Tranmere (A) W 2-1
Partington Constable
Oct 13 Forest Green (H) W 3-2
Odubade 2, Lafayette
Oct 17 Cheltenham (A)D 1-1
Lafayetye
Oct 24 Bromley (FAC, A) W 2-1
Odubade, Reason
Oct 31 Halifax (H)
Drury, Payne
Nov 7 Crewe (FAC1 , A)W 1-0
Strevens (pen)
Nov 10 Dover (A)
Constable 2
Nov 14 Guiseley (A)
Drury 2, Partington, Reason
Nov 21 Grimsby H
Nov 28 SouthportH
Dec 5 MacclesfieldA
Dec 19 Kidderminster H
Dec 26 BromleyA
Dec 28 AldershotH
Jan 2 BromleyH
Jan 9 KidderminsterA
Jan 23 Boreham Wood
Jan 30 WrexhamH
Feb 6 Lincoln CityA
Feb 6 Lincoln CityA Feb 13 BarrowH
Feb 6 Lincoln City A Feb 13 Barrow H Feb 16 Gateshead A
Feb 6 Lincoln City
Feb 6 Lincoln City .A Feb 13 Barrow .H Feb 16 Gateshead .A Feb 20 Forest Green .A Feb 27 Woking .H Mar 1 Cheltenham .H
Feb 6 Lincoln City .A Feb 13 Barrow .H Feb 16 Gateshead .A Feb 20 Forest Green .A Feb 27 Woking .H Mar 1 Cheltenham .H Mar 5 Braintree .A
Feb 6 Lincoln City .A Feb 13 Barrow .H Feb 16 Gateshead .A Feb 20 Forest Green .A Feb 27 Woking .H Mar 1 Cheltenham .H Mar 5 Braintree .A Mar 12 Chester .H Mar 19 Halifax .A
Feb 6 Lincoln City .A Feb 13 Barrow .H Feb 16 Gateshead .A Feb 20 Forest Green .A Feb 27 Woking .H Mar 1 Cheltenham .H Mar 5 Braintree .A Mar 12 Chester .H Mar 19 Halifax .A Mar 26 Welling .H
Feb 6 Lincoln City .A Feb 13 Barrow .H Feb 16 Gateshead .A Feb 20 Forest Green .A Feb 27 Woking .H Mar 1 Cheltenham .H Mar 5 Braintree .A Mar 12 Chester .H Mar 19 Halifax .A Mar 26 Welling .H Mar 28 Torquay .A
Feb 6 Lincoln City .A Feb 13 Barrow .H Feb 16 Gateshead .A Feb 20 Forest Green .A Feb 27 Woking .H Mar 1 Cheltenham .H Mar 5 Braintree .A Mar 12 Chester .H Mar 19 Halifax .A Mar 26 Welling .H Mar 28 Torquay .A Apr 2 Guiseley .H
Feb 6 Lincoln City .A Feb 13 Barrow .H Feb 16 Gateshead .A Feb 20 Forest Green .A Feb 27 Woking .H Mar 1 Cheltenham .H Mar 5 Braintree .A Mar 12 Chester .H Mar 19 Halifax .A Mar 26 Welling .H Mar 28 Torquay .A Apr 2 Guiseley .H Apr 9 Grimsby .A
Feb 6 Lincoln City .A Feb 13 Barrow .H Feb 16 Gateshead .A Feb 20 Forest Green .A Feb 27 Woking .H Mar 1 Cheltenham .H Mar 5 Braintree .A Mar 12 Chester .H Mar 19 Halifax .A Mar 26 Welling .H Mar 28 Torquay .A Apr 2 Guiseley .H

Apr 30 Woking......

WINCHESTER 2015/16 Southern League Div 1 SW

	l
Aug 8 Bridgwater (H) W 7-2	Au
Bentley 5 Glasspool 2	Wa
Aug 11 Wimborne Town (A) W 6-5	Au
Barron, Bentley 4, Short Aug 15 Yate Town (A) D 0-0	Wa
Aug 19 Marlow (H)	Au
Glasspool 2, Flookes, Short, Tomasso 2	Au
Aug 22 Evesham United (A) L 0-1	Sh
Aug 29 Wincanton (FAC, H) W 5-1 Dunn, Flookes, Glasspool, Barron,	Au
Bentley	Wi
Aug 31 AFC Totton (H) W 3-1	Au
Bentley 2 Diaper	Sir
Sept 5 Mangotsfield (A) D 2-2 Flookes, Barron	Se
Sept 12 Swindon (A, FAC) W 4-0	Fe
Bentley 2 Barron Cann	Se
Sept 19 Cinderford Town (H)D 0-0	Go
Sept 23 Folland (HSC, H) W 5-1 Bentley 2, Flooks 2, Barron	Sh
Sept 26 Maidenhead	Se
(FAC, H)	Se
Glasspool	Sh
Sept 29 Maidenhead (FAC, A)L 2-4	00
Bentley 2	Dia
Oct 10 Swindon Sup (A) L 1-2 Cann	00
Oct 14 Petersfield (RIC, A) W 4-2	00
og, Bentley, Bosma, Roberts a	00
Oct 17 Banbury United (H) W 4-0	Le
Barron 2, Bentley 2	00
Oct 24 Bishops Cleeve (H) W 4-1 Cann 2, Glasspool, Bentley	Ale
Oct 28 North Leigh (A) W 2-1	Oc
Glasspool, Bentley	Le
Oct 30 Weymouth (FAT, H) L 1-2	No
Bentley Nov 2 Burnham (A)	No
Nov 2 Burnham (A) W 4-1 Bentley 2, Glasspool, Roberts	Ed
Nov 7 Larkhall Ahtletic (A)W 4-1	No
Bentley 2, Thoroughgood, Glasspool	Go
Nov 10 AFC Totton (RIC, A)W 5-2	No
Basker 2, Bentley, Fay, Roberts	Bu
Nov 14 Shortwood United (H)W 2-1 Benham, Roberts	No
Nov 17 Marlow A	No
Nov 21 Tiverton Town	De
Nov 28 Bridgwater Town A	De
Dec 2 Wimborne Town H	De
Dec 5 Wantage Town H Dec 12 Taunton Town A	De
Dec 19 Evesham United H	De
Dec 26 AFC Totton A	Ja
Jan 2 Bashley H	Ja
Jan 9 Slimbridge A Jan 16 Mangotsfield United	Ja
Jan 23 Cinderford Town A	Ja
Jan 30 Tiverton Town A	Ja
Feb 6 Yate Town H	Fe
Feb 13 Didcot TownA	Fe
Feb 20 Burnham H Feb 27 Banbury United A	Fe
Mar 5 Swindon Supermarine H	Fe
Mar 12 Wantage Town	Ma Ma
Mar 19 Taunton Town	Ma
Mar 26 SlimbridgeH	Ma
Mar 28 Bashley	Ma
April 2 North Leigh H April 9 Bishops Cleeve A	Ap
The second secon	1 4

April 16 Larkhall Athletic... H April 23 Shortwood United. A

AFC TOTTON 2015/16 Southern League Division 1 S/W

Aug 8 Taunton Town (A) L 2-3
Watts, Gosney
Aug 11 Wantage Town (H)D 2-2
Watts Gosney
Aug 15 Shortwood United (H)L 0-2
Aug 19 Larkhall Ahtletic (A) L 0-2
Aug 22 Didcot (H) L 1-3
Sherborne
Aug 29 Portchester (FAC, A) L 1-3 Williams
Aug 31 Winchester City (A) L 1-3
Simpson
Sept 5 Yate Town (H) W 2-1
Feeney Sherborne
Sept 19 Bridgwater Town (A)W 5-0
Gosney, Feeney, Allen, Simpson,
Sherborne
Sept 26 Cinderford Town (A)L 0-3
Sept 29 Bashley (H)
Sherborne 2, Feeney, Gosney
Oct 10 Tiverton Town (H) D 2-2
Diaper Gosney
Oct 14 Stoneham (HSC, A)L 0-3
Oct 17 Slimbridge (A) L 0-3
Oct 20 Bashley (RIC, H)W 7-2
Lee 3, Watts 3, Edwards
Oct 24 Banbury United. (H)L 0-4
Oct 28 Sholing (RCC, A) L 2-4
Alexander, Dempsey Oct 26 Burnham (A) W 5-1
Lee 3, Diaper, Sherborne
Nov 7 Swindon Sup (A)L 0-2
Nov 10 Winchester (RIC, H)L 2-5
Edwards, Knight
Nov 14 Wantage (A)
Gosney, Watts, Williams, Sherborne
Nov 17 Larkhall Ahtletic (H)W 2-1
Burgess, Sherborne
Nov 21 Evesham United
Nov 29 Taunton Town H
Dec 1 Wantage TownA
Dec 5 North LeighA
Dec 12 Bishops CleeveH
Dec 19 Didcot Town A
Dec 26 Winchester CityH
Jan 2 Wimborne Town A
Jan 9 Marlow H
Jan 16 Yate Town A Jan 23 Bridgwater TownH
Jan 30 Evesham UnitedH
Feb 6 Shortwood United
Feb 12 Cinderford Town
Feb 20 Bashley A
Feb 27 Slimbridge H
Mar 5 Tiverton Town A
Mar 12 North LeighH
Mar 19 Bishops Cleeve A
Mar 26 Marlow A
Mar 28 Wimborne Town H
April 2 BurnhamH
April 9 Banbury United A
April 16 Swindon Supermarine H
April 23 Mangotsfield United A

Match of the Day misery for Chelsea

CHELSEA have topped the Match of the Day running order more times than any other team so far this season – and have lost on each occasion.

The BBC's head of football Mark Cole says the "soap opera" surrounding the struggles of the reigning champions and the behaviour of their underpressure manager Jose Mourinho has been a tough combination for the programme-makers to resist, with the Blues making five appearances in the top slot.

Other than West Ham – whose victories against Arsenal, Manchester City and Chelsea earned them the prime position on the main Saturday night highlights show on three occasions - no other top-flight club have been shown first more than twice Saints have not been shown first at

Mourinho's side have won just three league games this campaign. Two of them happened on a Saturday, but neither their win against Arsenal nor the one over Aston Villa was deemed good enough for the lead game.

But the programme did decide defeats to Crystal Palace, Everton, Liverpool and Stoke – as well as the 2-1 defeat to the Hammers at Upton Park – were worthy of going on first, with the action on the pitch usually enhanced by



Soap opera – Chelsea manager

the controversial words or actions of Mourinho.

Cole said: "When the champions are losing, it is always a story. Throw in a bit of Jose Mourinho and it means they are quite often in the mix around the top of the running order.

"We also look at the publicity side, in

"We also look at the publicity side, it terms of what is going to be on the back pages of the newspapers, because that basically is what people want to see."

Asked if Mourinho himself was a key factor, Cole added: "Absolutely. In one of the last rounds of games, when he did his interview we actually ran it in full and it was about two minutes.

"Normally we would put a couple of 20-second clips in there, but we decided to run it in full because it was a really interesting exchange and we thought that was really insightful for the audience to see Mourinho's state of mind.

"It dominates so many of the back pages and it is something there is real interest in – what is going to happen next in the soap opera that is Jose Mourinho?"

Louis van Gaal's controversial brand of football at Manchester United has not fared well with Match of the Day.

Continued on facing page

Spotlight on the 24

ALL 24 finalists for Euro 2016 are now known.

Here, the Sports Pink looks at the teams who have qualified for France next summer.

France (hosts)

Coach: Didier Deschamps Star player: Paul Pogba

Star player: Paul Pogba Chances: With home advantage and players such as Pogba, Karim Benzema and Hugo Lloris in their ranks, the French will be among the favourites.

Tournament best: Winners, 1984 & 2000

Qualifying record: Automatically qualified as hosts

Qualifying stat: Despite not needing to qualify, France were actually allocated a notional place in the five-team qualifying Group I, playing friendlies against the team without a fixture in each round.

Albania

Coach: Giovanni de Biasi Star player: Lorik Cana

Chances: Having come through a qualifying group including Portugal, Denmark and Serbia, Albania have proved they can play a bit but they will still be rank outsiders in the competition.

Tournament best: n/a Qualifying record: W4 D2 L2

Qualifying stat: Albania finished second in Group I, two points ahead of Denmark, but it might have been different had they not been awarded a 3-0 win against Serbia from an abandoned match in Belgrade.

Austria

Coach: Marcel Koller Star player: Marc Janko

Chances: Not likely winners but, as a team on the up, they will be difficult opposition for any side.

Tournament best: Group stage, 2008

Qualifying record: W9 D1 L0 Qualifying stat: This is the first time Austria, Group G winners, have qualified for the finals on the

field after being included as hosts

Belgium

Coach: Marc Wilmots

in 2008

Star player: Eden Hazard Chances: With a star-studded squad – including ex-Saint Toby Alderweireld – Belgium are capable of winning the tournament but much depends on how they gel as a

team and are coached. Tournament best: Finalists, 1980. Qualifying record: W7 D2 L1

Qualifying stat: By topping Group B, Belgium – 66th in 2009 – were guaranteed to move to the top of FIFA's world rankings for the first time in their history.



Saints ace Steven Davis is one of Northern Ireland's key players



Toby Alderweireld is a key man in Belgium's star-studded squad

Croatia

Coach: Ante Cacic Star player: Ivan Perisic

Chances: With some talented and established players, Croatia will expect to make the last 16 and hope to go further.

Tournament best: Quarter-finalists, 1996 & 2008

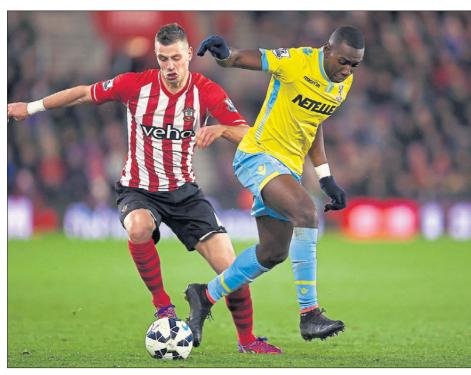
Qualifying record: W6 D3 L1 Qualifying stat: Croatia had an eventful qualifying campaign, having a point deducted after a swastika was burned onto their pitch and changing managers in September, but they leapfrogged Norway in the last round of fixtures to go through.

Czech Republic

Coach: Pavel Vrba

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Euro 2016 teams



Morgan Schneiderlin, left, will be hoping to figure for his country on home soil next summer



England's Wayne Rooney

Star player: Petr Cech Chances: The Czechs appear short of the star quality of the past and may not get beyond the last 16. Tournament best: Finalists, 1996

Qualifying record: W7 D1 L2 Qualifying stat: The Czechs have qualified for the finals of every Euros since the break-up of Czechoslovakia, a run starting with the 1996 tournament.

England

Coach: Roy Hodgson Star player: Wayne Rooney Chances: Past failures may still temper optimism, but the quarterfinals should be a minimum aim.

Tournament best: Semi-finalists, 1968 (3rd place play-off winners) &

Qualifying record: W10 D0 L0 Qualifying stat: The last team to qualify for the finals with a 100

ago, went on to win the tournament while Germany reached the semi-finals in 2008 after also going through with perfect statistics

Germany

Coach: Joachim Low Star player: Thomas Muller

Chances: Despite stuttering over the line with less-than-convincing performances in their final two qualifiers, the world champions are likely to begin the tournament as favourites.

Tournament best: Winners, 1972. 1980 & 1996

Qualifying record: W7 D1 L2

Qualifying stat: Germany had the most attempts on goal of any team during the group stage of qualifying with 232, ahead of Belgium (207) and England (195).

Hungary

Coach: Bernd Storck Star player: Balazs Dzsudzsak

Chances: A fairly solid unit - they

kept clean sheets in half of their qualifiers and the first leg of their play-off – Hungary could frustrate other teams but appear to lack the firepower to progress past the

Tournament best: Semi-finalists 1964 & 1972.

Qualifying record: W4 D4 L2. Beat Norway in a play-off 3-1 on aggre-

Qualifying stat: Hungary had three different managers in their qualifying campaign, with Storck ensuring they progressed after Attila Pinter and Pal Dardai also had spells at the helm.

Iceland

Coaches: Lars Lagerback Star player: Gylfi Sigurdsson

Chances: Iceland have suddenly emerged as a dangerous side under Lagerback and they will hope to reach the last 16.

Tournament best: n/a Qualifying record: W6 D2 L2

Qualifying stat: Lagerback is a dab hand at qualifying for Euros, having led his native Sweden to the finals three times and now repeating the trick with an Iceland team up against established opposition such as Holland, Czech Republic and Turkey in qualifying.

Italy

Coach: Antonio Conte Star player: Gianluigi Buffon Chances: The Italians may have qualified comfortably but lack star quality and can only be regarded as

having an outside chance. Tournament best: Winners, 1968 Qualifying record: W7 D3 L0

Qualifying stat: Italy were short f goals with Saints' Graziano Pelle top scored with three.

Continued on page 26

United are not favourites on BBC's MOTD

from facing page

The Red Devils have featured in the sixth slot - which was the last match on two occasions - four times and first just

The BBC has been criticised in for a perceived bias towards United after documentaries about striker Wavne Rooney, former manager Sir Alex Ferguson and the 'Class of 92' group of players were aired, plus Salford City's FA Cup tie against Notts County being selected for live broadcast.

However, Van Gaal's men do not seem to be getting any special treatment at all from the flagship highlights

"I think if you probably look 10 years ago or to when United used to play that free-flowing football ... that was a lot

easier on the eye," Cole said.
"It is not to say that van Gaal is not doing a fantastic job – and for Manchester United fans it is about them being in the top four of the Premier League and not the top four of our

Elsewhere, Everton, Stoke, Tottenham and West Brom share the 'honour' of being on last the most times

three occasions. In Spurs' case, that makes up 50 per cent of their total



Manchester United's Wayne

appearances on the show.

Mauricio Pochettino's men have had a fine campaign to date but they have not been given 'main event' status by Match

They have only appeared in the top three games on one occasion - thei 4-1 thrashing of Manchester City earned them the second slot on September 26.

Neither Stoke nor West Brom had featured in the top three until the most recent show on Saturday, November 7.

But while Stoke fans had the joy of a 1-0 win over Chelsea to enjoy that night, Baggies fans had to make do with a 2-0 defeat against Manchester United shown in slot three

West Brom and Tottenham are joined by Aston Villa, Saints, Swansea and Watford in never having been shown first this season.

As for the unwanted last spot, six teams have avoided that fate -

Arsenal, Chelsea and Manchester City, Leicester, Crystal Palace and Sunderland.

Sunderland's ability to avoid last slot may have to do with their tendency to leak goals. Of the 12 show-closing games to date, seven have ended goalless with an average of 0.66 goals per game. That compares with 4.33 goals per game averaged in the

Football fixtures

Sunday, November 22

VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE SOUTH

Monday, November 23

VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE SOUTH Wealdstone v Whitehawk. EVO-STIK SOUTHERN LEAGUE Premier Division: Hungerford v King's Lynn. SYDENHAMS WESSEX LEAGUE League Cup, second round: Team Solent v US Portsmouth.

Tuesday, November 24

Champions League Group E (1945): Barcelona v Roma. BATE Borisov v Bayer Leverkusen (1700GMT). Group F: Arsenal v Dinamo Zagreb, Bayern Munich v Olympiacos. Group G: Maccabi Tel Aviv v Chelsea (Matt McGeehan covering). Porto v Dynamo Kiev. Group H: Lyon v Gent. Zenit St Petersburg v Valencia (1700GMT). Valencia (1700GMT). Sky Bet League One: Bradford v Coventry. Bury v Scunthorpe. Colchester v Crewe.

Bury v Scuntnorpe. Colchester v Crewe.

Doncaster v Chesterfield, Fleetwood v
Millwall. Gillingham v Rochdale. Oldham v
Southend. Peterborough v Barnsley. Port
Vale v Blackpool. Sheff Uld v Shrewsbury,
Swindon v Walsall, Wigan v Burton.
League Two: Accrington v Hartlepool. AFC
Wimbledon v Dagenham & Redbridge.

Briddl Bevera v Stevenson. Crewlay v Bristol Rovers v Stevenage. Crawley v Northampton. Luton v Carlisle. Mansfield v Exeter. Morecambe v Cambridge. Notts County v Barnet. Oxford v Newport

Leyton Orient. Portsmouth v York. Yeovil v

VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE
Chester v Dover, Woking v Tranmere.
VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE SOUTH
Concord Rangers v Maidenhead, Hayes &
Yeading v Eastbourne Borough, St Albans
v Gosport Borough, Weston-super-Mare v
Hayest & Waterdaniille. Havant & Waterlooville. EVO-STIK SOUTHERN LEAGUE EVO-STIK SOUTHERN LEAGUE Premier Division: Biggleswade v Chippenham, Dorchester v Hitchin, Dunstable v Slough, Histon v Poole, Kettering v Chesham, Paulton Rovers v Weymouth (7.30). Division One South & West: Bridgwater v Cinderford, Didcot v Wimborne. SYDENHAMS WESSEX LEAGUE Premier Division: Cowes Sports v Hornde Premier Division: Cowes Sports v Horndean Lymington Town v Alresford Town. SOUTHAMPTON SENIOR CUP Third round: Blackfield & Langley v AFC Ihird round: Blackfield & Langley v AFC Stoneham, Romsey Town v Southampton University. SALISBURY HOSPITALS CUP Lawerstock & Ford v Salisbury. ANDOVER SENIOR OPEN CUP Andover New Street v Overton. WYVERN COMBINATION LEAGUE John Stimpson Mompoid Shield League.

Wednesday, November

John Stimpson Memorial Shield, league

phase: B. Verwood v Sholing.

Champions League Group A: Malmo v Paris St Germain. Shakhtar Donetsk v Real Madrid. Group B: CSKA Moscow v Wolfsburg. Man

Utd v PSV Eindhoven. Group C: Astana v Benfica (1500GMT). Atletico Madrid v Galatasaray. Group D: Borussia Monchengladbach v Sevilla, Juventus v Man City

VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE VANAHAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE Boreham Wood v Lincoln. EVO-STIK SOUTHERN LEAGUE Premier Division: Cambridge City v St Neots. Division One South & West: Larkhall v Mangotsfield, North Leigh v Evesham. SYDENHAMS WESSEX LEAGUE Premier Division: Brockenhurst v Bemerton

PORTSMOUTH SENIOR CUP PORTSMOUTH SENIOR CUP Third round: Baffins Milton Rovers v Liss Athletic (at Liss) SALISBURY HOSPITALS CUP Amesbury Town v Downton. WYVERN COMBINATION LEAGUE John Stimpson Memorial Shield, league phase: C. Fawley AFC v Moneyfields.

continued on facing page

Country-by-country

Guide to Euro 2016 teams - from page 25

Northern Ireland

Coach: Michael O'Neill

Star player: Steven Davis Chances: The Irish are a wellcoached and strong unit greater than the sum of their parts, but getting beyond the group stage would be a remarkable achievement.

Tournament best: n/a Qualifying record: W6 D3 L1 Qualifying stat: O'Neill's men topped their qualifying group, having begun as 20/1 outsiders.

Poland

Coach: Adam Nawalka

Star player: Robert Lewandowski Chances: With Lewandowski fit and firing anything might be possible, but the quarter-finals might be realistic.

Tournament best: Group stages, 2008 & 2012

Qualifying record: W6 D3 L1 Qualifying stat: Lewandowski's 13 goals equalled the record set by Northern Ireland's David Healy for the most goals scored in a Euro Championship qualifying campaign.

Portugal

Coach: Fernando Santos Star player: Cristiano Ronaldo Chances: Like Lewandowski for Poland, Ronaldo can inspire this team to great things.

Tournament best: Finalists, 2004 Qualifying record: W7 D0 L1

Qualifying stat: Portugal's campaign got off to a poor start under new boss Santos as they lost to Albania, but seven straight wins put

Republic of Ireland

Coach: Martin O'Neill Star player: James McCarthy

Chances: They may lack a standout name like many nations but a recent win over Germany - thanks to a goal from Saints striker Shane Long - suggests they should not be taken lightly.

Tournament best: Group stages, 1988, 2012.

Qualifying record: W5 D3 L2. Beat Bosnia-Herzegovina in a play-off 3-1 on aggregate.

Qualifying stat: Robbie Keane, currently captain at LA Galaxy, was the Republic's top scorer in Group D, although all of his five goals came against Gibraltar.

Romania

Coach: Anghel Iordanescu Star player: Razyan Rat

Chances: Despite being solid, Romania are not a team built to excite and they may not get out of their group.

Tournament best: Quarter-finalists, 2000

Qualifying record: W5 D5 L0 Qualifying stat: Romania had the



Saints striker Shane Long all smiles after scoring the Republic's Euro 2016 qualifying win against Germany

best defensive record in qualifying, conceding just twice.

Russia

Coach: Leonid Slutsky Star player: Artem Dzyuba Chances: Showed their quality with a strong finish in qualifying and should at least threaten the quarter-finals

Tournament best: Semi-finalists.

Qualifying record: W6 D2 L2 Qualifying stat: Slutsky, the CSKA Moscow coach who took temporary charge of the national side during qualifying and successfully guided them to the finals, had his playing career as a goalkeeper ended when he fell out of a tree trying to rescue

Slovakia

Coach: Jan Kozak

Star player: Marek Hamsik Chances: First appearance at the finals and anything beyond the group stage would be highly satisfactory.

Tournament best: n/a Qualifying record: W7 D1 L2 Saturday, November 21, 2015 **DAILY ECHO**

guide to Euro 2016



Wales' ex-Saints starlet Gareth Bale, left, with Belgium's Jan Vertonghen



Portugal talisman Cristiano Ronaldo

Qualifying Qualifying stat: Slovakia's Vladimir Weiss tied with Poland's Arkadiusz Milik and Senad Lulic of Bosnia for the most number of assists in the qualifying group stage on six

Spain

Coach: Vicente del Bosque Star player: David Silva

Chances: The squad may not be quite of the strength of those that won everything from 2008 to 2012 but they are still capable of claiming a third successive Euro title.

Tournament best: Winners, 1964, 2008 & 2012

Qualifying record: W9 D0 L1

Qualifying stat: Spain's loss to Slovakia in October 2014 is their only defeat in qualifying for any

major tournament in the past nine vears.

Sweden

Coach: Erik Hamren Star player: Zlatan Ibrahimovic Chances: While they have Ibrahimovic, they have a chance. Their hopes rest on his shoulders, just as

Tournament best: Semi-finalists, 1992

Qualifying record: W5 D3 L2. Beat Denmark in a play-off 4-3 on aggre-

Qualifying stat: Including the play-offs, Sweden scored 19 goals in total in their qualification campaign - Ibrahimovic struck 11 of

Switzerland

Coach: Vladimir Petkovic Star player: Xherdan Shaqiri Chances: The last eight might be the top of their ambitions.

Tournament best: Group stages, 1996, 2004 & 2008

Qualifying record: W7 D0 L3 Qualifying stat: Petkovic, who took charge at the start of the campaign and saw the Swiss through despite defeats in the first two games, speaks Italian, French, English, Spanish, German and Russian.

Turkey

Coach: Fatih Terim Star player: Selcuk Inan Chances: Will be among the outsiders at the tournament Tournament best: Semi-finalists,

Qualifying record: W5 D3 L2 Qualifying stat: Turkey not only saw off Holland to finish third in qualifying Group A, but their lastgasp win against Iceland ensured they also pipped Hungary to reach the finals automatically as the best third-placed team.

Ukraine

Coach: Mykhaylo Fomenko Star player: Andriy Yarmolenko Chances: Unfortunate not to progress in the group stage and blessed with two of the continents finest talents in Yarmolenko and Sevilla's Yevhen Konoplyanka, they will

have last-16 aspirations. Tournament best: Group stages.

Qualifying record: W6 D1 L3. Beat Slovenia in a play-off 3-1 on aggre-

Qualifying stat: Ukraine ended their play-off hoodoo by beat-ing Slovenia over two legs having failed to progress via that route in their previous five play-off ties for major tournaments.

Wales

Coach: Chris Coleman Star player: Gareth Bale Chances: Ex-Saint Bale might be able to make the difference against a number of teams, but even with him Wales may not get out of their group.

Tournament best: n/a Qualifying record: W6 D3 L1 Qualifying stat: Bale had more shots off target (21) than any other player in qualifying and, in terms of overall attempts (24), was second only to Lewandowski (25).

Football

Thursday, November 26

Europa League Group B: Liverpool v Bordeaux, Rubin Kazan v Sion. Group J: Monaco v Anderlecht, Qarabag v

Tottenham.
WYVERN COMBINATION LEAGUE Premier Division: US Portsmouth v Dorchester Town, Winchesater City v Petersfield Town.

Division One: Hythe & Dibden v Bashley.

Saturday, November 28

Barclays Premier League: Aston Villa v Watford, Bournemouth v Everton, Crystal Palace v Newcastle, Leicester v Man Utd (1730), Man City v Southampton, Sunderland v Stoke. Sky Bet Championship: Blackburn v Sheff Wed. Brighton v Birmingham. Cardiff v Burnley. Charlton v Joswich (1230). Fulham v Preston. Huddersfield v Middlesbrough.

Nottm Forest v Reading. QPR v Leeds. Rotherham v Bristol City. Wolves v MK

Dons.
League One: Barnsley v Sheff Uld (1215).
Blackpool v Fleetwood. Burton v Colchester.
Chesterfield v Swindon. Coventry v
Doncaster. Crewe v Oldham. Millwall v
Bury. Rochdale v Port Vale. Scunthorpe v
Peterborough. Shrewsbury v
Gillingham. Southend v Wigan. Walsall v
Brartford

League Two: Barnet v Mansfield, Cambridge League Iwo: Barnet v Mansteid. Cambr v Notts County. Carlisle v Crawley. Dagenham v Plymouth. Exeter v Bristol Rovers. Hartlepool v Oxford. Leyton Orient v AFC Wimbledon. Newport v Luton. Northampton v Pcovil. Stevenage Morecambe. Wycombe v Portsmouth. Y v Accrindon. v Accrington.

VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE Eastleigh v Southport (BT Sport, 12.30), cassieign v Southport (BT Sport, 12.30), Aldershot v Cheltenham, Barrow v Woking, Boreham Wood v Tranmere, Braintree v Torquay, FC Halifax v Dover Athletic, Forest Green v Altrincham, Gateshead v Chester, Grimsby v Kidderminster, Guiseley v Bromley, Lincoln v Welling, Wrexham v Macclesfield.

Macclesfield.
FA TROPHY Third qualifying round (local ties): Cirencester Town v Gosport Borough, Dorchester Town or Kingstonian v Truro City, Havant v Basingstoke Town, Hemel Hempstead v Weymouth. EVO-STIK SOUTHERN LEAGUE Premier:

Biggleswade v Bedworth, Chippenham v Dunstable, Histon v Dorchester, Kettering v Poole, Kings Lynn v Merthyr Town, Stratford v Hitchin

Poole, Kings Lynn v Merthyr Town, Strattord v Hitchin.
Division One South & West: AFC Totton v Taunton, Bashley v Cinderford, Bridgwater v Winchester City, Burnham v Mangotsfield, Didcot v Larkhall, Slimbridge v Wantage, Swadon S. V. Pachyur, Ticoton v North Swindon S v Banbury, Tiverton v North Leigh, Wimborne v Shortwood. SYDENHAMS WESSEX LEAGUE SYĎENHAMS WESSEX LEAGUE Premier: Alresford v Cowes, Bemerton HH v Andover Town, Blackfield v Moneyfields, Fareham Town v Bournemouth, Folland v Salisbury, Hamworthy Uld v AFC Portchester, Lymington v Fawley AFC, Sholing v Team Solent, Verwood v Newport loW, Whitchurch v Brockenhurst. Division One: Amesbury v Portland, Downton v Andover New Street, East Cowesv Laverstock & Ford, Fleet Spurs v Hythe & Dibden. New Milton v Alton. Pewsey Cowesv Laverstock & Ford, Fleet Spurs v Hythe & Dibden, New Milton v Alton, Pewsey v Tadley Calleva, Romsey v Christchurch, Totton & Eling v US Portsmouth. League Cup, second round: AFC Stoneham v Ringwood Town.

PUMA ENGINEERING HAMPSHIRE LEAGUE Senior Division: Fleetlands v Clanfield, Hamble Club v Baffins Milton, Headley v OK Soton, Hedge End Rangers v Colden Common, Liss v Infinity, Locks Heath v Bush Hill, Otterbourne v Liphook, Overton v Stockbridge, Paulsgrove v Winchester

v Stockbridge, Paulsgrove v Winchester Division One: AFC Petersfield v Upham,

Division One: AFC Petersheid v Upnam, Andover Lions v Sway, Broughton v v Michelmersh & T, Hayling Uld v Lyndhurst, Netley Central v Burridge AFC. Combination Cup: Group B: Baffins Milton Rovers v Headley Uld, Bush Hill v Overton; Group C: Clanfield v Olterbourne, Infinity v AFC Petersfield; Group D: Winchester Castle vi lise

Combination West: QK Southampton v

Hamble Club. WYVERN COMBINATION LEAGUE

WYVERN COMBINATION LEAGUE
Premier: AFC Portchester v AFC Totton,
Moneyfields v Sholing, Team Solent v
Wimborne .
Division One: AFC Stoneham v Totton &
Eling, Alton v Lymington, Fawley AFC v
Downton, Laverstock v Romsey Town.
John Stimpson Memorial Shield, league
phase: H. Tadley Calleva v Alresford Town.

Tributes pour in for legend Jonah Lomu

THE great and good took to social media this week to pay tribute to Jonah Lomu, following the death of the former All Blacks favourite at the age of 40.

Here is some of the most poignant reaction to the news of the death of one of rugby union's greats:

"Deeply saddened to hear of Jonah Lomu's unexpected passing. The thoughts of the entire country are with his family" – New Zealand prime minister John Key.

"Our thoughts are with the @ JONAHTALILOMU family tonight. A very special person. @AllBlacks" – former New Zealand captain Sean Fitzpatrick.

"I still can't believe the sad news. Love & thoughts go out to Jonahs family #RIPJonah" – current All Blacks favourite Dan Carter.

"I am so, so devastated to hear of the passing away of @JONAHTALILOMU The greatest superstar and just a fabulous human being. Deeply saddened" – former England international Jonny Wilkinson.

"The All Black in Blue. Rugby's first global superstar... a friend we will miss



Jonah Lomu in World Cup action for New Zealand. always #RIPJonah #legend

always #RIPJonah #legend #alwaysablue" – one of Lomu's former clubs, Cardiff Blues.

"Can't believe that Jonah Lomu has passed away. Was with him and his wife and family for an evening last month. So sad, life is so cruel. RIP Jonah you were a true legend and a gentleman. You changed the game of rugby and will be sorely missed. My thoughts are with your family" - former Wales fly-half Jonathan Davies.

"#RIP Jonah Lomu such sad news. huge heart&warmest smile ever. Saw him during RWC&had the warmest welcome. Proud to have called him a friend" – former England international Phil Greening.

"RIP Jonah Lomu – devastating news! True legend of the game" – Sale's England international Danny Cipriani.

"Devastated the greatest ever has passed away!" – Australian international James O'Connor.

"Sad sad news.. The man who gave kiwis the desire to play for the All Blacks. Thank you @JONAHTALILOMU will miss you big guy! #RILTokoUso" – former New Zealand scrum-half Piri

Eastleigh's chance

EXCITEMENT is building at Eastleigh FC ahead of next month's FA Cup second round trip to lower division Stourbridge.

It seems as if most of the major non league clubs in the Sports Pink's circulation area have enjoyed a memorable cup run in modern times ... with the exception of the Spitfires.

That could all be about to change, though.

Here, SIMON CARTER looks back at some of the best cup runs local non leaguers have enjoyed.

GOSPORT BOROUGH

Alex Pike was a Wembley winner in 1992, when he led Wimborne Town to a glorious FA Vase final triumph at the national stadium.

Now, in March 2014, he stood on the verge of history.

Could he become the first manager ever to lift the Vase and the FA

Against the odds, and in their first season as a Conference South club, Gosport had reached the Trophy final.

There they found themselves up against Conference National heavyweights Cambridge United.

Still, it was a memorable cup jaunt for a Borough side who had begun for odyssey in the third qualifying round – beating Dorchester Town 3-0.

Through to the semi-finals, they were drawn against Hampshire neighbours Havant & Waterlooville – their divisional rivals.

A goal from striker Tim Sills gave Borough a 1-1 draw at West Leigh Park in the first leg.

And Sills proved the second leg hero too – heading both goals in front of a crowd of 2,901, the biggest crowd at Privett Park since the 1950s.

The final attracted a crowd of over 18,000 to Wembley, but there the Gosport fairytale ended with a 4-0 beating.

HAVANT & WATERLOOVILLE

The Hawks have twice got the semi finals of the FA Trophy in recent years – in 2002/03 and 2013/14.

But both those runs are dwarfed by the club's truly remarkable FA Cup run of 2007/08.

It was a run that began with a second qualifying round win at Sussex club Bognor Regis ... and ended at one of the most famous grounds in world football six rounds later.

After beating Fleet Town and

After beating Fleet Town and Leighton Town, the Hawks were drawn away to then Conference National club York City in the first round

A Mo Harkin goal gave the Conference South club a 1-0 victory.

Drawn away again in the second round at League 2 strugglers Notts County – two divisions higher in the pyramid – Tony Taggart gave



Alex Pike celebrates after Wimborne had won the FA Vase at Wembley in 1992.



Sholing celebrate winning the FA Vase at Wembley in 2014.

the Hawks another shock single-goal success.

The third round draw saw Shaun Gale's Havant drawn away again, this time to third tier high-fliers Swansea City.

The Swans led on 74 minutes when Andy Robinson struck a 30-

yard free-kick, but Rocky Baptiste

drilled in an equaliser.

In between, Havant's ex-Saints academy defender Brett Poate saw red for a lunge on Andrea Orlandi, with Swansea's Alan Tate also sent off for his part in the melee that followed.

The replay at West Leigh Park has gone down in folklore as one of the greatest nights in Hampshire non league history.

Against a side from three divisions higher, Havant amazingly won 4-2.

Even before they entered the re-

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to enjoy great run



Havant and Waterlooville's Jamie Collins celebrates his goal during the FA Cup win against Swansea in 2008.



AFC Totton's Mike Gosney looks on as Truro celebrate their second goal in the 2007 FA Vase final.

play, the Hawks knew what their prize for victory would be – a fourth round tie at Liverpool.

Ex-Saint Garry Monk, now the Swans boss of course, opened the scoring when he put through his own goal.

Jamie Collins bundled in a second and Havant were in dreamland when Baptiste made it 3-0.

Swansea replied with a Guillem Bauza strike before the break, and then Leon Britton saw his penalty sayed

Jason Scotland cut the deficit to one, but Tom Jordan's header sealed a phenomenal victory.

With Havant now the talk of the

nation, the red-hot underdogs promptly went to Anfield and led 1-0 and 2-1.

The dream of the greatest upset in FA Cup history – that is not hyperbole, that is fact – was alive at those points.

Richard Pacquette's header had put Havant ahead before Leiva Lucas equalised for Liverpool with a superb 25-yard curler. Alfie Potter restored the part-tim-

Alfie Potter restored the part-timers' lead with a deflected effort, but Yossi Benayoun made it 2-2 from 15 yards.

Benayoun drove in just after the break and stroked home from a rebound to complete his hat-trick before ex-Saint Peter Crouch tapped in to make it 5-2.

How Eastleigh would love to enjoy moments in the sun like the ones Havant enjoyed that season.

WIMBORNE TOWN

I still consider myself lucky enough to have been at Wembley in April 1992 to see Alex Pike's Magpies create south coast football history.

Alex Pike's Wimborne entered the FA Vase final against holders Guiseley as red hot underdogs.

The Wessex Leaguers were overrun for the first 20 minutes and deservedly went 1-0 down.

All of us present were struggling to see a way back for the first Dorset club ever to play on the hallowed turf.

By half-time Wimborne were 3-1 up and they eventually triumphed 5-3 in one of the best matches I have ever seen.

Strikers Tommy Killick and Jamie Sturgess both scored twice, with inspirational skipper Steve 'Taffy' Richardson adding the oth-

In the semi-final, defender Trevor Ames – a local hairdresser – had written his name into Wimborne folklore by scoring both goals of the second leg win over Lancastrians Bamber Bridge at Cuthbury following a goalless first leg.

WINCHESTER CITY

Alex Pike's Wimborne Town were the first Wessex League side to lift the FA Vase in 1991/92.

Neil Hards' Winchester City were the second 12 years later.

The 2003/04 season was only City's second ever attempt at winning the Vase.

The first, the previous season, had ended at the quarter final stage when they were a Hampshire League club.

Led by the talismanic Andy Forbes, Winchester won 2-0 at home against Wessex rivals Hamworthy United in the second round.

That was the last time they were to play at home prior to the twolegged semi final.

Wins at Whitehawk, Mossley, Wroxham and league rivals Andover followed, before City went to north Devon and drew 3-3 with Bideford in the first leg of their last four tie.

Forbes and strike partner Ian Mancey shared the goals as they blitzed Bideford 4-0 at home to set up a final with AFC Sudbury.

But not a final at Wembley, sadly. cont on page 36

Refreshingly honest and funny insight

The World of Cycling According to G

By Geraint Thomas

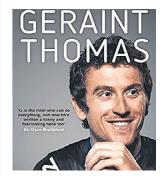
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FOLLOWING the briefest introduction, the standard sporting biography soon becomes little more than an extended CV, a written procession detailing early development, the benefits of hard work, a leavening selection of amusing anecdotes and, ultimately, reward and recognition.

The propensity for a large number of ghost writers to stick to this template almost certainly accounts for the genre's indifferent reputation and why so many sports books are such a disappointment.

If any man had cause to reel off details of his incredible success, bearing in mind he's still only 29, it's Geraint Thomas, known to colleagues and cycling fans alike simply as 'G'.

Thankfully, G dispenses with the formulaic and presents us with an account which reads as though it was written by a massive cycling fan who



Front cover of Geraint Thomas

managed to get to the very top of his sport.

Thomas's rise was no fluke, however. He is a double Olympic champion, a talented rider who many believe will eventually become leader of a Grand Tour team, but he ignores such speculation to provide both a captivating insight into the sacrifices cyclists must make and an often extremely funny tale.

We may have expected the former, but the latter is hardly a surprise: get a bunch of young sportsmen together for any period of time and what are they likely to talk about, or do?

Thomas pulls no punches when providing details, but one senses that the camaraderie cultivated during late night drinking sessions or time just joshing around acts as a powerful incentive and provides sustained encouragement for injured riders (to get back on their bikes.

The World of Cycling succeeds because Thomas avoids adhering to the standardised sporting biography template.

It is obvious that he enjoys his chosen career and could fill scores of pages with details of the accolades, awards and trophies he's already collected, but essentially Thomas simply loves being involved in sport.

TV cameras at Spitfires' home match

SEVEN months after their promotion hopes were shattered in front of the cameras, Eastleigh will return to televised action next Saturday when BT Sport screen the Spitfires' home clash with Southport.
When their last campaign concluded

with defeat at Grimsby, Eastleigh's Conference Premier play-off semi-final match took second billing to Chelsea securing the Premier League title on

It was a different story, however, when the television station paid their maiden visit to the Silverlake Stadium, at the outset of the Spitfires' first ever

campaign in non-league's top flight.
Aldershot were in town on Thursday, August 14, 2014, a night when if you wanted to watch football on television this non-league fixture was the only offering on the menu.

And BT Sport viewers would receive plenty of bang for their buck, as a fraught contest was settled by Ben Wright's thrilling 93rd minute winner for the home team.

Encouraged by the compelling fare served up under the Silverlake lights, the TV company were back at Ten Acres six months later, when viewers would witness a fast-evolving Spitfires' side put Macclesfield to the sword.

Whereas Richard Hill's team had



Stadium for Eastleigh v Aldershot. ridden their luck to see off the Shots. though, there was nothing fortunate about the 4-0 victory over their Cheshire-based visitors.

With Jai Reason instrumental Eastleigh ran riot in front of 4,126 spectators, a record attendance inspired by the latest of chairman Stewart Donald's free-admission initiatives.

A number of those people persuaded along by the buckshee entry, to watch the home team turn in the performance that launched their charge for a play-off spot, would surely have been enticed back for more.

So too BT, who waited only seven weeks before serving up another Spitfires' feast for their subscribers

With their endeavours being beamed around the country, Eastleigh shone on their April trip to Lincoln City, to collect three points that Hill described as their most important of the season

That was the Spitfires' penultimate game of the regular campaign, a 2-1 victory most notable for a beautifully crafted team goal, finished off by Jack Midson.

Furthermore, their win at Sincil Bank pushed Hill's men to the verge of a play-off spot, with the deal sealed a week later with victory over Kidderminster Harriers

Continued on facing page

Experience will be

WHEN it came to landing the biggest scalp in their 69-year history Eastleigh were able to lean on the vast Football League experience in their ranks.

Now, following the Spitfires' stunning start to life under new boss Chris Todd, there is a prize on offer far greater even than progress to the FA Cup's second round, writes PAUL McNAMARA.

That was the Silverlake Stadium club's reward for toppling League One Crewe Alexandra a fortnight

Keep going as they are in the National League, however, and come the summer Eastleigh could be toasting promotion into the Football League.

In this particular battle, though, one of the Spitfires' main adversaries can outdo Todd's troops for their depth of league knowhow.

To glance through the names turning out for Grimsby Town this weekend's visitors to the Silverlake - is to recognise a team stuffed full of rugged league campaigners

Since they made a habit of turning over Eastleigh last season. when Grimsby defeated the Spitfires on four separate occasions Paul Hurst's side have made light of losing the transferred duo of Ollie Palmer and Lenell John-Lewis; formerly the spearhead pairing for an uncompromising but expressive

In terms of miles run on football's higher plains, Grimsby now have in their number Padraig Amond and ex-Cherries defender Josh Gowling, men who have plied their trade at the pinnacle of the game in Portugal and Denmark, respectively.

What's more, in Amond, Paul Hurst's side have a valuable commodity in more ways than one. The Irish striker, who spent the 2010/2011 season with Pacos de Ferreira in the Portuguese Primeira Liga, has already plundered 12 National League goals this season.

The 27 year-old's 160 Football League appearances across spells at Accrington and Morecambe were sandwiched by his move to Grimsby this year and his Iberian souiourn.

Defender Gowling, meanwhile, whose Scandinavian venture with Herfolge came more than a decade ago, has only four fewer league outings on his CV than his prolific team-mate.

The combined number of Amond's and Gowling's Football League appearances totals more than half of those accumulated by the entire Crewe team that lost to Eastleigh.

At Grimsby, though, the 316 league run-outs that this duo share between them, is trumped by two of their colleagues.

Andy Monkhouse played 416 league matches across sixteen years with Rotherham, Swindon



Ex-Eastleigh midfielder Harry Pell has made over 100 Football League appearances.



Josh Gowling during his AFC Bournemouth career.

experience already marks Monkhouse out as a vital asset to his current employers, then so too does the fact that the 35-year-old was part of the Bristol Rovers side that broke Grimsby hearts in May's Conference Premier play-off final at Wem-

Captaining the Mariners as they went down to a penalty shoot-out defeat was Craig Disley, a midfielder with 386 league appearances to his name following spells with Mansfield, Bristol Rovers and

Paul Reid and Dan Harding are

the only two men on Eastleigh's playing staff whose exposure to league action runs to more than 300 games. That would make the defensive twosome – both currently nursing injuries – stalwarts among Crewe's fledgling squad.
Grimsby boss Hurst has a playing

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vital for Eastleigh



Darren Carter pictured during a trial game for Saints at Barnet.



Andy Monkhouse, middle, in action for Hartlepool against Brighton & Hove Albion.

group with more than 2,000 football league appearances between them at his disposal.

Todd, meanwhile, sent out an 11 for the Spitfires' FA Cup tie at Gresty Road boasting a collective 1,082 league starts, dwarfing their opponents' 525.

Even factoring in the figures of

Jack Midson (156) and Reid, however, both on the bench at Crewe, Eastleigh's renowned league savvy is put in the shade by the staggering mass of higher sphere football in the legs of Grimsby's streetwise

Frontrunners Cheltenham are tangible proof that there is more

than one way to skin a cat.

Relegated out of League Two last term, the Gloucestershire club were forced into a culling of their squad.

Manager Gary Johnson has plugged the gaps with a whole host of youngsters, plenty of whom were desperately seeking a second chance

Jack Munns, once on the books at Tottenham, has been thrilling crowds this term with his electrifying wing-play.

Goalkeeper Dillon Phillips, borrowed from Charlton, is proving a revelation for Johnson's team, while another loanee, Reading rookie Rob Dickie has excelled in the Robins' defence.

The canny Johnson has supplemented his primarily fresh-faced team with a sprinkling of older heads. Nevertheless, only two of the Cheltenham side that started last week's 4-0 mauling of Southport have made more than 100 Football League appearances.

Former Eastleigh man Harry Pell is just into three figures after spells with Hereford and Wimbledon.

Veteran centre-half Aaron Downes' stints with Chesterfield and Torquay, meanwhile, saw him rack up 252 league run-outs, a figure that puts him way ahead of all of his Cheltenham colleagues.

Away from the young hopefuls he has plumped for, Johnson has recruited from the level his team are trying to escape.

Kyle Storer was a midfield presence for Tamworth and Kidderminster before his switch to Cheltenham. Similarly, striker Danny Wright is a familiar face in this division, after playing for Cambridge United and Forest Green, among others.

others.
Johnson did have Asa Hall and James Dayton, who between them have accumulated 200 football league appearances, on his bench at Southport - but the former Yeovil boss is placing his faith in his tyros.
Billy Waters from Crewe and ex-

Billy Waters from Crewe and ex-Swindon player Jack Barthram are two other players rebuilding their careers at Whaddon Road.

Forest Green possess a number of players whose prior experience is split either side of the league/non-league dividing line.

When the New Lawn team suffered back-to-back defeats in September, though, bringing an abrupt end to their flawless nine-match start, manager Aidy Pennock went into the market for a real pedigree performer.

performer.
Ex-WBA midfielder Darren Carter has played more than 300 Football League games - he was once on trial at Saints - and stroked home the winning penalty when Birmingham City overcame Norwich City in a shoot-out in the 2002 Championship play-off final.

Forest Green's front line is led by former Preston targetman Jon Parkin. The centre-forward's 307 league appearances, and Carter's haul, both far outweigh the number made by any of their Rovers' colleagues — with the exception of ex-Aldershot defender Darren Jones, who has racked up 250.

Forest Green go into the secondhalf of the season armed with a squad whose collective league appearances add up to more than

Eastleigh and Southport's fierce rivalry

from facing page

Their team's flawless on-screen record acted as further fuel for optimism for Eastleigh followers, heading into the Spitfires' two-legged play-off encounter with Grimsby, with both games due for the live small screen treatment.

Nevertheless, the portents weren't good for those supporters when, minutes into match one, Nathan Arnold struck a glorious long-range goal for the Mariners.

Despite Yemi Odubade's second-half leveller, Arnold completed his man-ofthe-match performance by unleashing a spectacular winning effort for the away team.

Grimsby's full-to-bursting, atmospheric Blundell Park home, allied to the presence of the cameras, lent a distinct 'big-match' feel to the return contest.

Following a bright start, however, the Spitfires were eventually blown away by Paul Hurst's ruthless team, losing 3-0 on the day. After making such a positive

After making such a positive impression on their first foray into Conference football, Donald and his ambitious club might have expected to be hosting their television paymasters before the clocks go back this season.



Young Eastleigh fans at the live TV win over Macclesfield.

Instead, Eastleigh have had to wait patiently for their turn.

A home fixture with Southport wouldn't necessarily have been the one that any observer would have anticipated rousing the broadcaster's interested.

In a relatively short period of time, however, a burgeoning rivalry has spawned between these two clubs, separated by 242 miles.

Eastleigh centre-half Dean Beckwith was red carded in the second-half at Southport's hail-lashed Haig Avenue ground last December, as the home team won a fractious FA Cup second round tie.

Brief highlights of Southport's 2-1 triumph featured on that night's Match of the Day programme, with Beckwith's dismissal considered worthy of analysis by former Everton and Wigan player Kevin Kilbane.

Eastleigh we're back in the North West on a Tuesday night in February and won 2-1 following a physical battle between two teams developing a real distaste for each other.

There was no surprise, then, when Southport's Andrai Jones was given his marching orders for an awful challenge on Joe Partington when the sides met again on the opening day of this campaign.

FOOTBALL

Saints march to commanding win despite being below par

SYDNEY Whymark scored an impressive hat-trick as Southampton Saints Under12's caned Portsmouth University U13s 7-1 in the Winchester & District Girls League.

After three weeks without a fixture, Saints looked below par, but weren't helped by injuries to three of their key players.

Despite the performance, they

didn't forget how to score goals as Whymark and Libby Mell put them into a very commanding 2-0 lead.

Pompey reduced the arrears before Leah Ballard scored from close following a corner to make it 3-1.

Saints improved in the second 45 minutes, Whymark scoring two more to complete her hat-trick, with Pakes and Ballard also finding the target.

Warsash Wasps Whites hit five past St Francis to move up to third thanks to Sophie Moor (4) and Ella Proctor. Simpson replied. Widbrook Reds and Andover both

Widbrook Reds and Andover both won 10-0 against Warsash Yellows and Alton respectively.

and Alton respectively.
Five goals for Widbrook's Hills put
her out in front as the division's leading scorer with a superb average of

four goals per game after six fixtures. Widbrook's Celik and Horrel both netted twice along with Gittins in their 5-0 win over St Francis.

• Southampton Saints U11's made it four wins in as many games and continued their 100 per cent start to the season with a 7-0 victory against Romsey

Challenge Cup defeat for Southampton Saints Ladies



Southampton Saints under-13s

SOUTHAMPTON Saints Ladies crashed out of the FA Women's Challenge Cup when they lost 4-1 at Old Actonians.

Saints started brightly and look dangerous on the counter, but lacked any penetration in the final third and couldn't find a way through a stubborn defence.

Saints found themselves 1-0 down at the break. Southgate's attempted block saw keeper Hannah Haughton parry the ball on to the post, but was unable to deny Byrne on the follow up.

Saints levelled shortly into the second half when skipper Krystal Whyte set up Jess Lewry to lob home.

Saints lost their concentration from a corner and were punished. Carla Williams was allowed space in the box and the ball struck her to fall into

Williams added a third and completed her hat-trick late on when

Haughton saved her penalty, but she converted the rebound.

● In the Hampshire Women's Cup, Warsash lost to Shanklin 3-0 while Winchester's first team beat BTC Ladies 6-1.

Three goals for Bell-Jack guided Southampton Women FC to a 7-0 thrashing of fellow league side Andover.

In the Hampshire County Women's League, Winchester Reserves beat Widbrook 3-1.

Widbrook's reserves progressed in the Intermediate Cup with a victory against Southampton Women reserves, while QK Brook Veal-Weather scored a hat-trick in Sholing's 6-0 victory over Winchester Flyers, while Williams, Sornsen and Rogers were also on target.

◆ Corfe Mullen progressed to the semi finals of the Hampshire U16 Girls Cup following a 4-2 penalty win at Warsash, after a 0-0 stalemate. Corfe will face Southampton or Oakley in the last four.

Pompey face Fleet Town Girls in the other semi. $\,$

Southampton Saints U14's sent out a message to the rest of the teams left in the Hampshire Cup with a 9-0 thrashing of Winchester Flyers at Lapstone Park,.

Saints' early pressure was rewarded with a goal in the opening seven minutes when Kia Anteney finished off a well worked move involving Grace Jenman and Lilly Shergill

Grace Jenman and Lilly Shergill. Shergill doubled the lead, prodding home from close range.

Despite Winchester doing some attacking of their own, Saints extended their lead through Jenman's tidy finish

Anteney made it four with her second of the match, before the fifth was added in the 34th minute as Jenman made the most of a slack clearance from the goalkeeper.

Saints were on the back-foot at the

beginning of the second period, with Manisha Kuar called into action on a couple of occasion.

But Saints scored again in the 64th minute, Jennifer King looping a shot into the top corner. The holders added a seventh

The holders added a seventh through Anteney's hat-trick goal, and minutes later the same player grabbed her fourth.

King rounded off the scoring in the closing stages with a calm finish and Saints will now face Pompey in the semi final at home in January.

Hampshire Cup U13 second round

Southampton Saints lost 1-0 to Fleet Town.

It was end to end action from start to finish with both sides showing plenty attacking threat and resilient defending.

Fleet scored in the ninth minute when a low shot from outside the box unsighted Emily Gardener.

Hedge End keep the Faith

HEDGE End moved above R.S Nomansland in the Senior Division of the City of Southampton Sunday League with a 5-2 away victory.

Luke Faithful (2), Dan Turner (2) and Aaron Cousins were on target, with Ben Dawkins and Brett Hall replying.

replying.
Junior Division 2: Ice Sports
extended their lead at the top
to nine points with a 6-0 win
over Marchwood - Ryan
Fuller, Luke Benham, Luke
Flower (2) and Callum Drake
(2) scoring.

Junior Division 3: AFC
Waterside continued their 100
per cent start with a 2-1 win
against Mottisfont. Niall
O'Connor and Nathan Grey
scored with Jake CornwellPhilpott replying.

Hat-tricks from Ash
Dallimore and Scott Kirkwood
helped Durley to an 8-0
triumph over 10-man Royal
Marine. Mike Cooper and
Brad Smirk were also on
target.

Junior Division 4: Craig Shellard, Alex Waterman and Philly Brown all scored as Fawley R.B.L reserves continued their perfect start to the season with a 3-1 victory against Forest Home. Freddy Atterbury replied.

Junior Division 5: Abbotswood came from behind to salvage a point against Sporting Compass through a Liam Dobbing goal. Adam Tahir was on target for

Unity extended their lead at top to six points with a 5-1 win against lowly St Minions. Shazar Rahman, Kovan Hassan, Ray Fakirmohamed and Safdhar Khan all scored, with Martin Given replying.

with Martin Given replying.
Junior Division 6: Doubles
for Pawel Burdzy and Joe
Proctor helped Carnival beat
FC Woolston 5-3. James Scott
scored the other, with Dan
Fudge, Fabio Marques and
Lamin Camara replying

Banister Park beat Riverside 4-1 with goals from Jamie Meredith (2), Lee Tew and James Scott. Josh Willats replied.

A.F.C Hedge End Town beat Testwood Tornadoes 4-1 thanks to Ben Rose, Adam Bugley, Macually Smith and Josh Penny. Damien Killey



Two-goal Callum Drake

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Hampshire Colleges football

Wood you believe it! PSC need help against Brock

PETER Symonds remain comfortably top of the Hampshire Sixth Form Colleges League after a 1-1 draw with title rivals Brockenhurst.

But they needed a little help from the woodwork!

Four times Brockenhurst hit the post in an entertaining scrap between two of the sides vying to displace seven-times winners Itchen as champions, *writes Mike Vimpany*.

The swirling wind at Bereweeke Road made conditions tricky and Brock's Barney Turner was the first to strike 'wood' with a speculative effort which got caught up in the crossfield blast.

Lee Vint will feel he ought to have done better with two subsequent chances which came Brock's way, the second of his opportunities hitting a post

PSC had their first half moments

But Brockenhurst did hit the target

- Corfe Hill's based county midfielder
Brandon Randall firing them into a
half-time lead.

Brock's advantage didn't last long – a PSC corner holding up in the wind and Mike Olaore put the Winchester side on level terms.

It didn't ought to have ended in a draw as Brock hit the woodwork twice more, the influential Harry McGrath striking the base of the post late on. Peter Symonds have also been in

Peter Symonds have also been in ESFA Colleges Trophy action, but lost 5-3 to Farnborough - Theo Servini, Harry Bayles and substitute Jay Bugg replying.

The only other game completed in the Colleges League was Andover's match with South Downs at London Road having to be abandoned through a serious injury.

Andover were 2-0 up when South Downs' Josh Young, once on Fareham Town's books, suffered a double leg fracture.

Barton Peveril's visit to Sparsholt was called off due to a waterlogged nitch

In the B Division, Richard Taunton College extended their winning start with a 2-1 victory over Poole Grammar

OTs & Romsey cricket starlet Elliott Mitchell-Lea was RTC's match winner. Coming on as sub, he planted a decisive free kick into the top corner from the edge of the box.

Earlier, Ottis Connell gave RTOC the lad, which Poole's Chris Browne cancelled out from the penalty spot.
In the Second XI Division, Pete

In the Second XI Division, Pete Thatcher notched a hat-trick as Peter Symonds whipped Brockenhurst 6-0 - ironically, after missing a penalty, which Billy Coleman saved!

James Burgess atoned later from the spot and joined Max Kirwan and Jay Bugg on the PSC scoresheet.

Wednesday's fixtures

A Division: Barton Peveril v Andover, Brockenhurst v Queen Mary's. B Division: Chichester v Portsmouth, Richard Tauntons v Havant, Poole v Alton.





Peter Symonds' Rob Woods and Brockenhurst's George Pooley, right, and further action, above.



Peter Symonds' Theo Servini, left, and Brockenhurst's George Pooley. More action below. Pictures by Chris Moorhouse.





Boyatt on march in senior cup

BOYATT Wood Wanderers booked their place in the third round of the Hampshire FA Senior Cup after a 2-1 victory against Halfway United

Mike Halton and Dan Harkett-Burgess were on target for the home side.

High-flying City of Southampton Senior Division side Itchen Saints continued their impressive form with a 5-0 win over Lord Chichester. Jamie Wilson (2), Aiden Johnson, Liam Collymore and AJ Cashmore netted.

Goals from Charlie Hinge and Ashley Lovett weren't enough as Waterlooville Social Club thrashed Hamble Roll Call 6-2.

Shoulder of Motton lost at home to Testlands 2-0 with Luke Newman and Josh Chapman scoring.

Thrashed

Junior 'A' Cup

HEATHFIELD Royals eased their way through to the next round with a 4-1 victory at AFC Bishopstoke, Charlie Pennett-Harris replying.

AFC Gosport scored seven in each half as they thrashed Tally Valley Spartans 14-0, whilst AFC Velmore put five past Rushmore Community without reply – Ashley Hibberd (2), Alex Waldron (2) and lan Attril on target.

Otters out

Junior 'B' Cup

DESPITE a first-half strike from Daniel Winter, Otter Sunday lost 4-1 against Rushmoor Reserves.

All the goals were scored in the opening 45 minutes as Hunters Inn beat TML 5-2 – Liam Mitchell, James Solloway (2), Daniel Hansford and Robert Pearce netting for the winners.

Queens Head United beat King George 5-2, Josh Daley and Mark Phillips replying.

Joe Glasspool replied as Sholing Monks lost 4-1 to Guardsmen.

Junior 'C' Cup

AARON Fielder, Shahin Bani-Sadr, Matthew Camfield and Liam Fielder were all on target in Bridge Manor's 4-2 victory over Cross Keys Atbletic

Bishops Waltham Dynamos trounced Siriloin of Beef to reach the second round, with Phil Kimber, Matt Betts, Dan Burgess and Moolgavkar were all among the goal

Jerome O'Brien struck four goals as Portswood United Reserves beat Twinings 5-1. Cameron Roach also scored.





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FA Vase final record crowd saw Totton

from page 29

The national stadium was being rebuilt so Winchester had to play Sudbury at Birmingham City's St Andrews instead.

As a result, the final lacked the glamour of a Wembley showpiece occasion, but Winchester weren't complaining after goals from Forbes – his 76th of an incredible campaign – and Shaun Dyke (penalty) had given them the greatest win of their history.

AFC TOTTON

The Stags' greatest ever cup run coincided with the opening of the new Wembley stadium in 2007.

Totton reached the 2006/07 FA Vase final, becoming only the second Hampshire club to ever get that far in the competition.

As a result, they faced Cornish club Truro City in what was only the second club game ever to be staged at the rebuilt national stadium.

There was no glorious ending for the Stags, though, as they were beaten 3-1. Danny Potter fired Totton ahead, but former Plymouth Argyle player Kevin Wills fired low into lain

Brunnschweiler's net prior to half-time.



Danny Potter celebrates his goal for Totton in the 2007 Vase final.

Stuart Ritchie's men came out fighting after the break but Wills who again broke Totton hearts, with a low 25 yard drive past Brunnschweiler.

As Totton pushed forward, Fouad Hamodu had two good chances but the Stags couldn't make the final breakthrough.

They were caught on the break by Joe Broad who struck six minutes from time to finally shatter the hopes of the thousands of Totton fans in a record Vase final attendance of just over 35,000.

There had been high drama in the previous two rounds.

Totton had trailed in front of a record

Totton had trailed in front of a record Testwood Park crowd of 1,309 in their all-Wessex League quarter final at home to Wimborne.

But Mike Gosney forced extra time with an equaliser and Salisbury City loanee Lee Stevens struck the winner

Drawn against north east club Billingham Synthonia in the semi finals, Totton lost the first leg 2-1 at home.

Goals from Mark Osman and Stevens turned the tie on its head in the second leg, though, before a 90th minute goal from David Wells levelled the scores on aggregate.

After extra time failed to break the deadlock, it all came down to penalties continued on facing page

Pride of place goes



Fair Oak opener Ed Kemp won the Division 1 batting award with 683 runs



Tom Wiltshire took 42 wickets for Odiham & Greywell in Regional 1 North

PRIDE of place at the first of the Hampshire Cricket League presentation award dinners went to Fair Oak.

They won the County Division 1 championship with a 100 per cent record to clinch a return to the Southern Premier League in the process.

They were among 11 teams to receive their awards from teenager Hampshire off-spinner Brad Taylor, who took time out from his preparations for the 2016 ICC Under-19 Cricket World Cup in Bangladesh to attend the function, writes Mike Vimpany.

Taylor cut his teeth in Hampshire League cricket as an 11-year old with Holybourne and won a divisional bowling award in his early years.

Among the other award winners were Bramshaw and Compton & Chandler's Ford, who achieved a double with their second and third teams lifting titles.

They won County Division 4 North and Regional 3 North East.

Top individual award went to Farley's Mike Covill, who entered the Hampshire League's Hall of Fame with 1,110 runs in Regional 1 West.

Only eight other batsmen have reached the 1,000 runs milestone in Hampshire League cricket.

Covill, who captains the Salisbury-based club, scored his 1,110 runs at an average of 74, making four centuries – he made a personal best 210 against Sway – and six scores of fifty or more.

• High scoring Bramshaw won all bar two of their 17 games, chalking up 361 points to win the County Division 3 South title.

vision 3 South title.

Andy Hart's 942 runs, which earned the CD3 South batting award, included four centuries and a plethora of 40 sixes. Simon Booth (459) and skipper Zane De Monte (410) scored consistently, with Jamie Martin (40) and Miles



Bramshaw with their title

Kingston (31) taking a lion's share of the wickets. Elsewhere, Fair Oak opener Ed

Elsewhere, Fair Oak opener Ed Kemp won the County Division 1 batting award with 683 runs.

Tadley Hobos seamer Ali Mumtaz took 41 wicket to win the County Division 3 North bowling award.

Tom Wiltshire's 42-wicket haul helped Odiham & Greywell finish runners-up behind Tichborne Park II in Regional 1 North and win him the divisional bowling award.

Ashok Nautiyal scored a crucial 806 runs for Hurstbourne Priors, who narrowly avoided relegation from County Division 4 North.

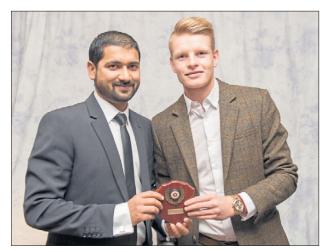
Compton & Chandler's Ford celebrated a championship double, with Gary Scallan captaining the second team, who pipped Steeple Langford to the County Division 4 title by four points.



Bramshaw's Zane de Monte receives the County Division 3 South trophy

Saturday, November 21, 2015 DAILY ECHO PINK 37

to Fair Oak CC



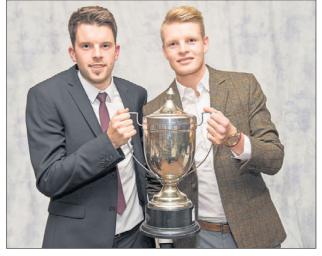
Ashok Nautiyal scored a crucial 806 runs for Hurstbourne Priors



Mike Covill receives his batting award from Dave Creedon of Sholing-based TrophyMan, who supplied all the HCL prizes



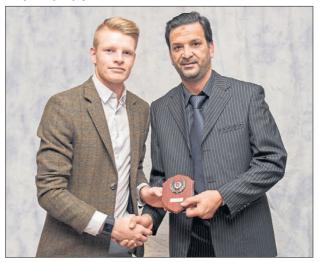
Fair Oak with their trophy



Fair Oak's 38-wicket captain Andy Mash with the County Division 1 championship trophy



Compton & Chandler's Ford celebrated a championship double, with Gary Scallan captaining the second team, who won County Division 4



Tadley Hobos seamer Ali Mumtaz took 41 wicket to win the County Division 3 North bowling award. All pictures by LMI Photography

Sholing the third Wessex Vase winners

from facing page

Totton booked their ticket to Wembley, winning 5-4..

It was the greatest day in the then 121-year history of the Stags.

SHOLING

The Wessex League had to wait 10 more years after Winchester's 2004 success before they could celebrate a third Vase success.

This time it was Southampton-based Sholing who lifted the silverware, and they got to do it at Wembley.

In their first Vase campaign as Sholing – they had previously entered the tournament as VTFC – Dave Diaper's Boatmen were expected to do well.

They lived up to that billing by beating former Vase winners Winchester City 1-0 away in the second round, before further triumphs against Folland Sports, Reading Town, Hullbridge Sports, Larkhall and Wisbech.

Drawn against Eastbourne United in the semi-final, Sholing needed a late equaliser from midfielder Mike Carter to claim a 2-2 draw at their own Silverlake Arena in the first leg. Up against it in the second leg in



Sholing celebrate their FA Vase final success at Wembley in 2014.

Sussex, Sholing stunned their hosts by winning 4-2.

And a few weeks later, at Wembley, there were even more celebrations as a second half goal from Marvin McLean gave that season's Wessex League champions victory over West Auckland Town.

FARNBOROUGH TOWN

Back in 1991/92, the north Hampshire club were the talk of the nation after drawing 1-1 with West Ham in an FA Cup third round tie at Upton Park.

After Julian Dicks had given the Hammers the lead, Boro levelled eight minutes from time when Dean Coney converted a penalty. The replay was also held at Upton

Park, and again Boro put up a remarkable fight against a Hammers side then in the second tier.

They only lost 1-0, and the only goal – from Trevor Morley – agonisingly came two minutes from the end of normal time.

Boro were again the talk of the nation in 2002/03, when they reached the fourth round before losing 5-1 to Arsenal.

Rocky Baptiste scored Boro's consolation against an Arsenal side that went on to beat Saints in the final.

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SATURDAY'S FOOTBALL RESULTS AND TABLES

March Marc	Barclays Premier League	Doncaster0 Ro	ochdale2 Henderson 84,90	Ladbrokes So	cottish Prem	Vanarama Nati	ional League
Second S	Chelsea 1 Norwich 0 Costa 64 0	Fleetwood Town5 Sv	Att 6,125 windon 1	Celtic0	Kilmarnock0	Aldershot0	Wrexham1
Second column	HT 0-0 Att 41,582	El-Abd 34 og Sarcevic 55 pen	Ajose 78	Dundee Utd1	St Johnstn2		Att 1,483
Second Control Contr	Barkley 17,42, Lukaku 28,59 HT 3-0	Fosu 69		HT 1-2	Davidson 45	Clee 76	Att 1,002
April 1999 Property Propert	HI L-L	HT 1-0 Millwall4 Co	olchester1	Djoum 24	Loy 67		KiddrmnstrP
Mart	Vardy 45, Ulloa 62, Okazaki 83	Ferguson 38,62	Porter 55	Doolan 42, Stevenson 90	Storey 6	Cheltnham1 Pell 52	Forest Grn1
Second Column	SAINTS 0 Stoke 1	HT 2-0		Ross Cnty3		Chester FC1	Woking2
September 1	Swansea2 AFC Bournemouth 2	Yeates 78	Hourihane 30 Long 89	Boyce 90 pen	Att 3,378		Goddard 90 Att 1,837
Marchael Service Ser	Shelvey 39 pen Gosling 26	Port Vale3 Ch	hesterfld2	HOME	AWAY	Dover3 Modeste 11	Barrow 1
Second Part	Watford 1 Man Utd 2	Leitch-Smith 10		Celtic 15 6 2 0 23 4	5 1 1 15 7 36	Miller 35	AH 043
SkySet Charles on State 1	Deeney 90 og HT 0-1 Att 20,702		radford2	Aberdeen 14 5 1 1 11 7 St Johnstn 15 4 2 1 13 8	7 4 0 3 10 9 28 3 4 0 4 18 15 26		Grimsby1
Syget Champlonship	Morrison 35, Arteta 40 og Giroud 28	HT 0-1	Leigh 52	Dundee 15 2 3 2 11 11	1 2 4 2 10 13 19		Att 2,057
Supplementary Supplementar	HOME AWAY	Southend1 Bl		Inverness CT 15 2 2 3 5 6 Kilmarnock 15 2 1 4 7 14	2 3 3 11 13 17 4 2 3 3 8 10 16	Bowman 38 pen	Smith 22 og James 40
March Marc	Leicester 13 4 1 1 13 11 4 3 0 15 9 28	Walsall1 Sh	heff Utd1	Motherwell 15 2 1 4 6 10	2 1 5 5 11 14		Att 853
March Marc	Man City 12 5 0 1 19 5 3 2 1 7 4 26	HT 0-0	Att 5,780			Lewis 49, Dennis 80	Att 1,632
March Marc	Tottenham 12 3 3 0 10 4 2 3 1 10 6 21 West Ham 12 2 2 2 11 10 4 1 1 12 6 21	Revell 36			<u> </u>		Lincoln City3 Waterfall 16,74
Company Comp	SAINTS 13 3 1 3 12 10 2 4 0 7 4 20	HOME			Cummings 60		Att 1,752
Weekled 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 6 7 6 7 6 7 7 7	Stoke 13 2 1 3 5 7 3 3 1 6 5 19		4 2 3 14 9 37 3 2 4 12 15 34	Dumbarton3	Raith3	Norwood 45,90 pen HT 1-1	Att 4,352
Marcalle 13 13 15 15 15 15 15 15	Watford 13 2 2 3 4 6 2 2 2 8 8 16	Walsall 17 4 3 2 13 9 Wigan 18 6 3 0 15 3	5 3 0 16 6 33 3 3 14 15 33	HT 0-2	Robertson 56 Att 707		Phenix 74
SkyBet Championship SkyBet Ch	Chelsea 13 3 1 3 10 10 1 1 4 7 13 14 Norwich 13 2 1 3 7 8 1 2 4 9 16 12	Bury 18 4 4 1 16 13	4 2 3 14 14 30	Hippolyte 51	Holt 22	HOME	AWAY
SkyBel Championship	Bournemouth 13 1 2 3 5 9 1 1 5 9 18 9	Millwall 17 4 1 4 13 13 Peterboro 18 4 2 3 20 16	4 3 1 15 11 28 4 1 4 19 13 27	Queen Sth2 Lyle 35 pen, Russell 84	Falkirk	P W D L F A Cheltnham 22 6 4 1 20 8	W D L F A Pt 6 4 1 24 9 44
SkySet Championship	A. Villa 13 0 2 4 3 7 1 0 6 7 17 5	Sheff Utd 18 5 1 3 19 13	2 4 3 10 12 26	HT 1-1	Att 1,728	Grimsby 22 6 3 2 28 12	4 6 1 17 9 39
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		Oldham 18 1 3 5 9 17 Fleetwood T 18 3 3 3 17 8	2 7 0 11 9 19 2 0 7 8 19 18	Raith 14 5 0 2 12 5	2 1 4 6 15 22	Tranmere 21 6 1 4 16 10 Bromley 22 6 1 4 23 13	3 5 2 14 10 33 3 4 2 5 18 23 33
President Pres	Canos 63 Lansbury 74 Hofmann 90	Barnsley 18 3 1 5 10 10	2 1 6 12 20 17	Livingston 15 1 1 5 7 10 St Mirren 14 0 3 5 8 15	2 1 5 10 13 11 5 2 2 2 5 7 11	Chester FC 22 5 3 3 17 14	3 2 6 11 19 29
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March Marc	lpswich 2 Wolves	Azeez 90 HT 0-0	McCarthy 51 Att 4,482	HT 1-1	Att 1,041	Kiddrmnstr 21 2 3 6 9 15	0 5 5 13 19 14
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Coventry	HT 0-0 M K Dons. 1 Bowditch 30	Corr 13 Berry 37 HT 2-1 Carlisle	Cc Stanley 3	HT 2-0 Brechin	Stenhsmuir	BASINGSTKE 0 HT 0-0 Chelmsford 0 HT 0-1 Ebbsfleet United L Godden 5,41, Bonner 22 HT 3-0 H Hempstead L Hawkins 22 pen HT 1-1 Oxford C L Pond 10 HT 1-1 Sutton Utd 3 McAllister 24,44, Dundas 79 HT 2-0 Wealdstone L Louis 2 pen HT 1-1 Oweston-S-Mare L HT 0-0 Whitehawk 0 HT 0-1 Brackley L HT 0-1 Bradford Pk Ave L St Juste 79 HT 0-1 Corby 0 HT 0-1 Curzon Ashton L Warbulon 16 HT 1-1 Curzon Ashton L Warbulon 16 HT 1-1 Curzon Ashton L Warbulon 16 HT 1-1 Curzon Ashton L	Maidstone Utd
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